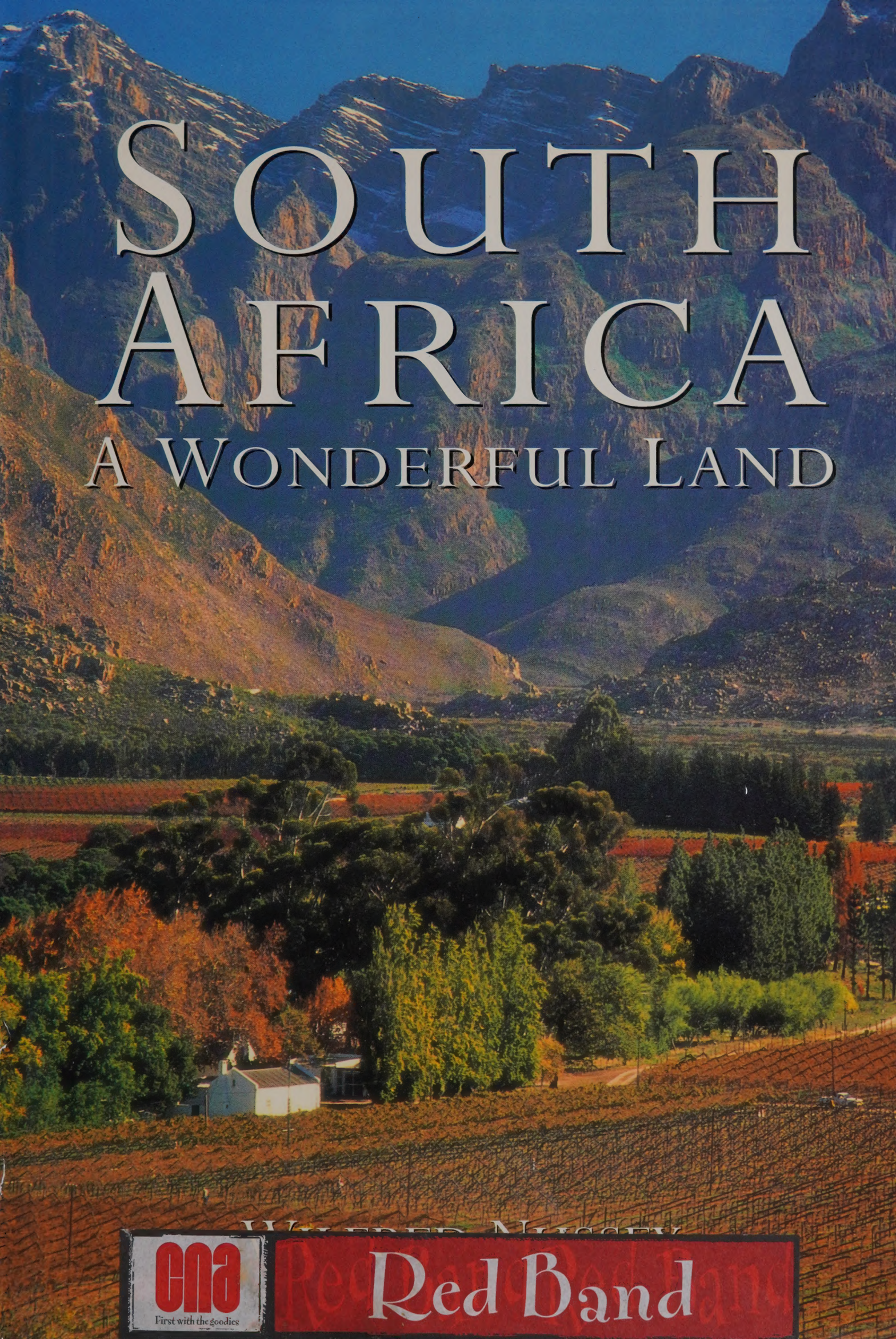
SOUTH AFRICA
A WONDERFUL LAND
CNA
First with the goodies
Red Band

SOUTH AFRICA

A WONDERFUL LAND

SOUTH AFRICA is an intoxicating land with a fabulous bounty of rich and ever-changing scenery. Its precious collections of wildlife, cornucopia of plants and flowers, and large expanses of game and marine reserves make South Africa a land of fantastic variety and contrasts.

This beautiful guide takes you on a vivid pictorial journey through one of the world's most diverse and fascinating countries. There are celebratory portraits on every aspect of South Africa: landscape; industry and agriculture; wildlife; flora; parks and reserves; cities and towns; arts and crafts; people and cultures, and architecture – all are presented in their full majestic glory.

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A marvellous portrait of an exciting and rapidly changing country, *South Africa: A Wonderful Land* is an inspiring companion to be turned to again and again.

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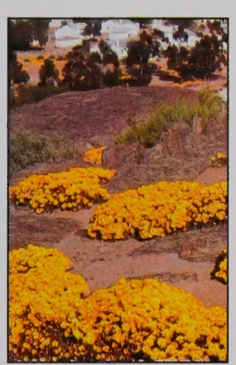
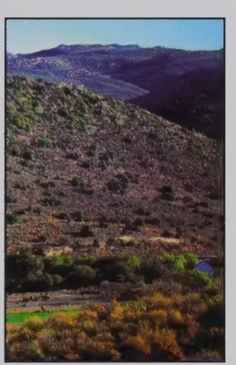
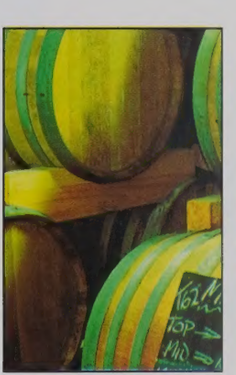
South Africa

A Wonderful Land



Wilfred Nussey

SOUTH AFRICA

A WONDERFUL LAND

WILFRED NUSSEY

CNA

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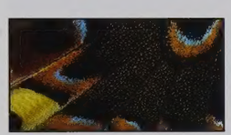

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INTRODUCTION

BORN OF CONQUEST AND SHAPED BY CONFLICT, South Africa has at last reached a maturity that holds the promise of a stable future. That so bizarre an amalgam of peoples and cultures with so turbulent a past is holding together so well indicates that the country is unlikely to go the way of much of Africa. Although more than three centuries of confrontation have left South Africa with enormous social imbalances, it has abundant talent, a modern infrastructure, great economic potential and an entrenched democracy.

Of the estimated 42 million South Africans, three-quarters are blacks belonging to two main ethnic groups and nine language groups, the largest being Zulu and Xhosa. They span the full social spectrum, from illiterate rural dwellers to people at the highest levels in government, business and academia. Whites form about 13 per cent of the population and are mainly of Dutch and English descent, with French, German, Portuguese

ABOVE *The first European to land in the Cape was the Portuguese navigator Bartolomeu Dias, in 1488, naming it the "Cape of Good Hope". He landed at what is now Mossel Bay in the Western Cape and bartered sheep and cattle from Khoi herdsmen. The honour of being the first to circumnavigate Africa, however, belongs to Phoenician sailors, who did it over several years in about 600 BC.*

LEFT *Explorers sent out by Portugal's Prince Henry the Navigator pioneered the spice trading route around Africa to India in frail caravels like this one, a reconstruction presented to South Africa by Portugal. It is now in the museum at Mossel Bay.*

ABOVE *The plaque marks a huge, gnarled milkwood tree in Mossel Bay as a national monument. On 7 July 1501, Captain João da Nova sheltered in the bay after most of his fleet had sunk in a storm. He left a report about it in an old shoe hanging from the tree and for many years afterwards passing navigators left messages and mail for each other there. The tree is now an official post office and letters mailed from it are specially franked.*

and Jewish minority groups. About nine per cent are people of mixed blood (or Coloureds) – European, Malay, Khoi, Asian and African. Some three per cent are Indians, mostly Hindu.

In 1488, a decade before Columbus reached South America, Portuguese navigators seeking a trade route to the East first encountered the inhabitants of the southern tip of Africa: the pastoral Khoi (Hottentot) and hunter-gatherer San (Bushmen) peoples. By that time blacks who had migrated from East and Central Africa, reaching the Eastern Cape in about 700 AD, had been co-existing with the Khoi for centuries.

The first Europeans to settle in South Africa were the Dutch, who arrived at Table Bay in 1652. They were joined 36 years later by French Huguenot refugees. In 1795 Britain occupied the Cape to prevent Napoleon from doing so, returned

LEFT *Ox-drawn wagons were to the South African hinterland what "prairie schooners" were to the American West. This one in the Voortrekker ("pioneer") Museum in Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu/Natal, was used in the Great Trek of the early 19th century. In these sturdy vehicles Afrikaners crossed mountains and deserts to trek as far north as Kenya.*

RIGHT *The English people who settled in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu/Natal in the early 19th century brought with them their way of life, down to the last detail. Much of it has been preserved in museums, like this reconstruction of a Victorian bedroom in a Pietermaritzburg museum.*

it to Dutch control in 1802 and then colonized it in 1806.

Whites migrating inland by ox-wagon met the black people in the Eastern Cape for the first time in about 1770, triggering a series of nine frontier wars which spanned nearly a century. In 1820, in an attempt to end these wars, Britain sent 4000 English men, women and children to settle in the Eastern Cape to act as a buffer between the warring groups. In 1824 more Britons settled in what became Natal, German settlers reached the Eastern Cape in 1858, and Indians began to arrive in Natal in 1860 to work in the canefields.

Meanwhile, Afrikaners who had grown disenchanted with

BELOW *When the early English and Afrikaner settlers first encountered the mighty Zulu and were admitted to their kraals, they would have found peaceful scenes like this – Zulu girls sitting on a grass mat outside their thatched beehive hut, weaving baskets from grass.*

LEFT *In the Anglo-Boer War Britain lost a series of battles against the Afrikaners in January 1900 during what became known as "Black Week". One was the Battle of Spioenkop ("spy hill") on 24 January, when General Louis Botha defeated Sir Redvers Buller. A monument marks the scene of the battle.*

British rule in the Cape started migrating inland in about 1834. The Great Trek, as it became known, lasted some 20 years. The trekkers found the interior swept almost empty by years of massive social upheaval called the Mfecane or Difaqane which had started in about 1818 when the military genius, Shaka, began conquering his neighbours and building his Zulu nation. The ripples of violence spread across most of southern Africa, creating loose rabbles who plundered everyone in their paths.

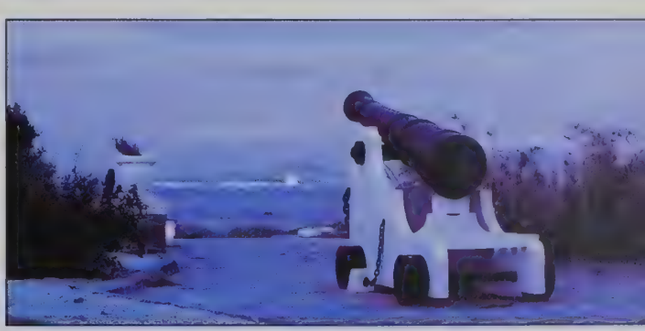
Into this maelstrom moved the trekkers, clashing with some black groups, protecting others. They crushed the Zulu might at the Battle of Blyde River in 1838, and began settling in the Orange Free State and Transvaal republics.

By this time Britain had become worried about the Afrikaner threat to its power. It had expanded the Cape Colony, colonized Natal and then, for a short period, annexed the Orange Free State. But when it annexed the Transvaal in 1877 the Afrikaners rose in revolt, and in the first Anglo-Boer war in 1881 they defeated the British at Majuba Hill.

Now more powerful forces came into play, following the discovery of vast deposits of diamonds and gold in the Cape and Transvaal. Foreign greed soon overwhelmed the Transvaal, plunging it and the Orange Free State into the Anglo-Boer War (often referred to in South Africa as the "1899-1902 South African War"). The heavily outnumbered Afrikaners fought with skill and determination, but finally succumbed to the British forces' scorched earth policy.

In 1910 Britain created the Union of South Africa, bringing together the Cape, Natal, the Orange Free State and Transvaal

ABOVE *Near Ladysmith in KwaZulu/Natal, a lonely row of English graves in quiet countryside bears testimony to the violence that erupted here two weeks after the Anglo-Boer War began. At the ferocious Battle of Elandslaagte ("eland hollow") British lancers inflicted a resounding defeat on the Afrikaners.*



ABOVE *As dusk closes in, the lights of Cape Town come glitteringly alive in the distance. This view from Robben Island ("Seal Island") must have saddened the political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela, incarcerated on the island by the apartheid regime.*

ABOVE *A joyous Nelson Mandela greets the huge crowd in Cape Town who came to welcome him soon after his release from 27 years in prison. With him is Winnie Mandela, whom he divorced after he became President of South Africa.*

ABOVE *The general election in April 1994, which ushered in a democratic South Africa, was a first for blacks and a novelty for whites, too, who found themselves queuing with their servants to cast their votes. Contrary to widespread fears, the election was remarkably peaceful.*

under one government – but only for the whites. Throughout South African history the black and brown people had been denied equal rights, except in the Cape where there was a small measure of equality. White rulers adopted a paternalistic attitude towards non-whites, ignoring the rising number who matched them in skills and intellect. Growing dissatisfaction among non-whites led to the formation, in 1912, of the African National Congress (ANC).

Tentative moves by the whites to improve the lot of the blacks came to an abrupt halt in 1948 when Afrikaner nationalists unexpectedly won the general election. They launched apartheid ("apartness"), one of man's uglier forms of repression of his fellow man. As anger and resentment grew among the usually passive, easy-going black people, the National Party government resorted to ever more brutal means of suppressing them. In its last decade of power the National Party government abandoned all semblance of democracy, carried devastating war into neighbouring countries and oppressed all internal opposition so harshly that it turned South Africa

LEFT *After President F.W. de Klerk announced the demise of apartheid in February 1990, the artificial taboos of race disappeared with hardly a ripple. People could live normal lives, like this couple in Soweto, the city south-west of Johannesburg formerly reserved for blacks.*

into a time bomb.

President F.W. de Klerk defused the bomb on 2 February 1990. He lifted the ban on the ANC and, two weeks later, Nelson Mandela walked to freedom, opening the way to the general election in April 1994 in which, for the first time, all South Africans voted. The new nation confounded the world by emerging in peace. It has some localized political conflict, it has crime, it has many other problems. But it is here to stay.

LEFT *Discriminatory barriers – of gender as well as of race – are coming down throughout the new South Africa. Here, a black woman and a white man discuss a business deal in Johannesburg, the economic heart of South Africa.*

ABOVE *Black women, whom many describe as the backbone of South Africa, form a large part of the workforce and do much of the basic labour. This woman is harvesting red and green peppers on a farm near Johannesburg.*

1

LANDSCAPE

A STUDY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S GEOLOGY is like a journey in a time machine. Its 1,219,090 square kilometres (about 471,000 square miles) encompass most of the Earth's geological history, from the birth of the land mass some 4.5 billion years ago, through hundreds of millions of years when it was blanketed by layers of lava, then a vast sea of sand, and then more lava until it slowly split into the present continents some 150 million years ago.

South Africa's surface has changed repeatedly, raised and lowered by subterranean upheaval, covered by sand, swamp or sea, split by volcanic rifts, weathered by climatic extremes and scoured by glaciers. The oldest form of rock, about 3.5 billion years old, and the oldest known form of life, a single-celled creature about 3.2 billion years old, have been found in Mpumalanga. The Karoo and Western Cape yield a huge variety of fossils of dinosaurs and early mammals. Some of the earliest species of mankind have been discovered in the Northern and North West provinces.

The geological contortions endowed the country with its legendary wealth in gold, diamonds, platinum and other minerals, and with its richly varied scenery –

FACING *Over thousands of years the Blyde ("joyous") River has carved the third largest gorge in the world – 700 m (2310 ft) deep and 57 km (36 miles) long – through the Drakensberg Escarpment in Mpumalanga down to the Lowveld ("low country").*

beaches, bays and lagoons along the 3000 km (1875 mile) coastline, mountains of many shapes and sizes, tropical plains, forests, savannah and deserts, supporting an unparalleled diversity of fauna and flora. Most of South Africa is an inland plateau dipping gradually to the desert on the west coast and sharply down the Drakensberg ("Dragon Mountains") Escarpment to the verdant, sub-tropical east coast. The plateau terrain varies from rolling savannah, seamed and studded with ridges, to empty semi-desert and flat plains. Although more than two-thirds of the land of South Africa is arid to dry with sparse vegetation, much of it is reasonable farming country.

The climate is balmy, seldom reaching the extremes. In summer it is warm in the north, hot and humid in the east, warm and dry in the central plains, hot and dry in the low arid regions, cool along the Drakensberg Escarpment and warm along the southern coast. Winter is brief, cold at night and sunny in most areas during the day. Average sunshine is about nine hours a day. Stretching from the Limpopo River in the north to Cape Agulhas in the south, and from the stark Atlantic coast in the west to the lush seaboard of the Indian Ocean in the east, the landscape of South Africa is as diverse as that in any country in the world – it is a world in one country.

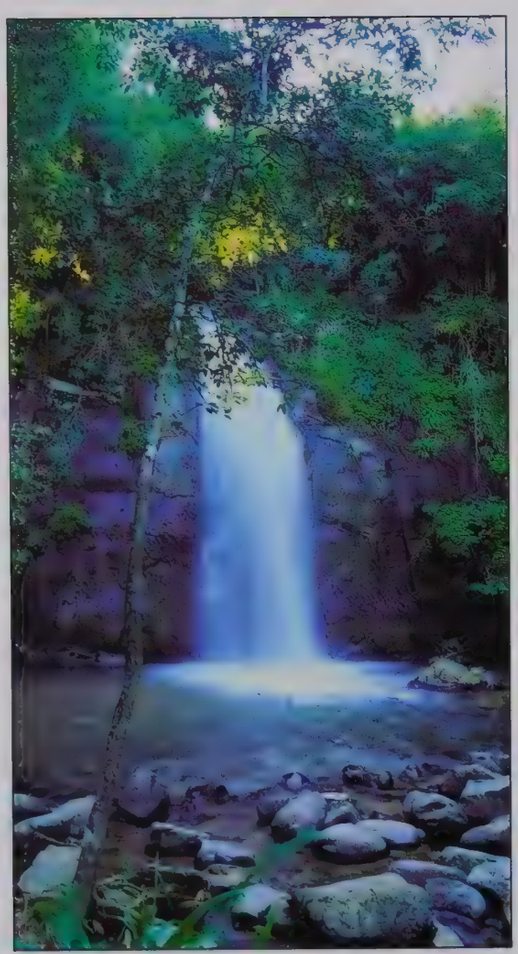
ABOVE *A mingerhout tree pushes its roots down through fine cracks in the rock to reach a dried-up stream bed. These trees grow to a great size and were once favoured for making wagon wheel spokes.*

LEFT *Near the top of the Drakensberg Escarpment at Bourke's Luck, named after a prospector, the Blyde River tumbles down one of many waterfalls, eroding the rock into strange shapes.*

LEFT *In winter the flat, empty Highveld ("high country"), lying between 1500 and 2500 m (5000 and 8000 ft) above sea level, becomes parched and yellow and very cold. This scene is near Wakkerstroom in Mpumalanga.*

ABOVE *On a rocky outcrop near Middelberg in Mpumalanga a protea bush holds its drying flowers aloft over a winter-flowering aloe and, at bottom left, the fronds of a small tree fern. These plants are typical of the Highveld vegetation.*

ABOVE *God's Window, on the edge of the Drakensberg Escarpment near Graskop in Mpumalanga, is so called because from 1000 m (3300 ft) above the Lowveld it gives an almost infinite view. In many places the drop from the Escarpment is vertical.*

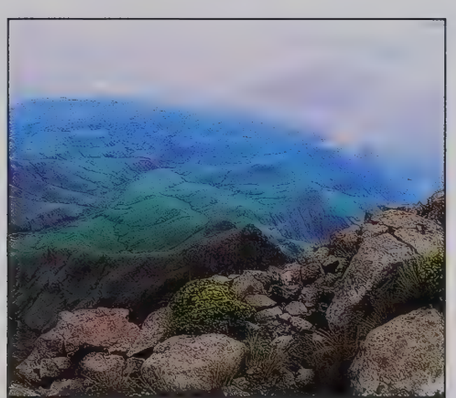


LEFT *Bridal Veil Falls, near the attractive forestry town of Sabie, is one of scores of waterfalls in the Drakensberg Escarpment, some reachable only along hiking trails, others close to main roads.*

BELOW *Although the Free State province consists mainly of vast, almost empty sweeps of savannah, its combination of crisp clear air, mist, cloud and brilliant sunrises and sunsets creates spectacular vistas.*

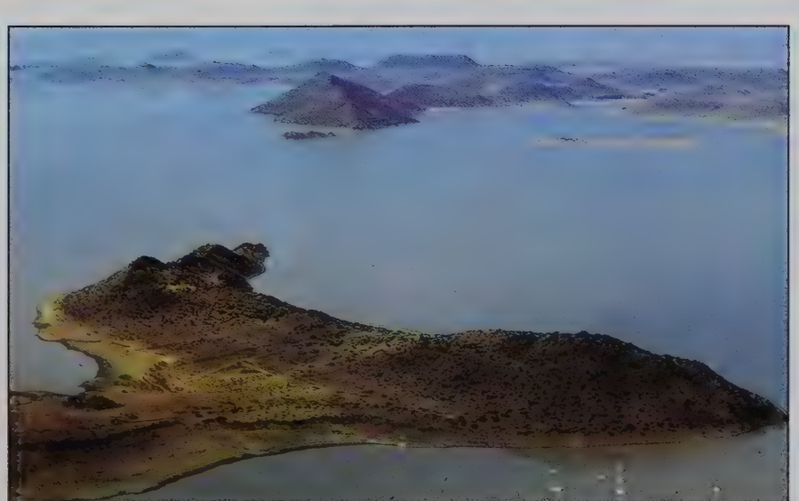
LEFT *In the east of South Africa the sub-tropical warmth and moisture from the Indian Ocean nurture thick forests in the hills and plains traversed by many rivers, like the Hluhluwe here, flowing through northern KwaZulu/Natal.*

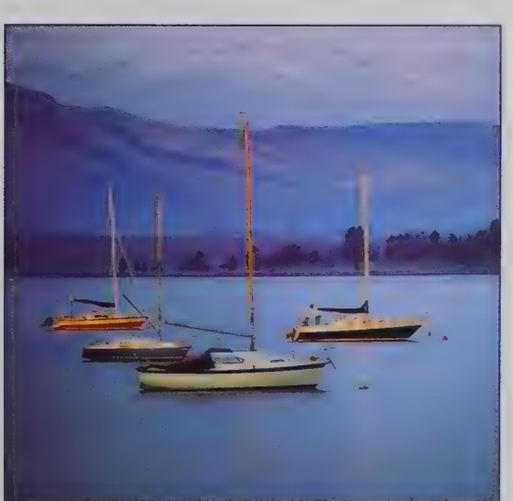
BELOW *The 374 square kilometre (144 square mile) Gariep Lake was created in the Free State by damming the Orange River to help meet the country's water and electricity needs. It is now a leading inland water resort.*



LEFT *This view from near the top of the Schazini Valley, KwaZulu/Natal, gives some idea of the immense expanse of mountain scenery below the Drakensberg.*

BELOW *The Midmar Dam near Howick in KwaZulu/Natal is a popular yachting venue. There are more yachts on South Africa's inland lakes and dams than along its coasts.*

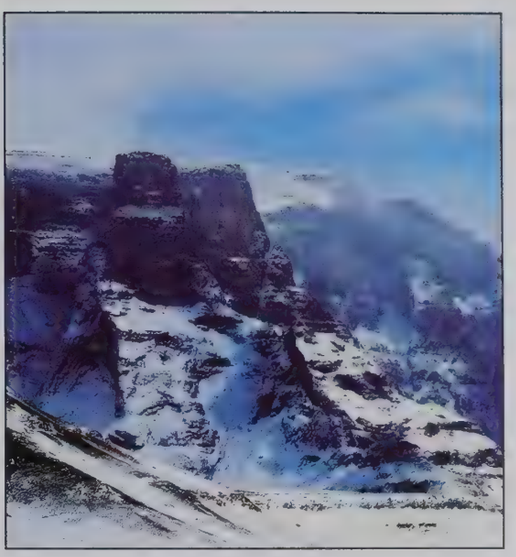




ABOVE *Few scenes anywhere surpass the majesty of the Drakensberg Escarpment. In the Royal Natal National Park a resort huddles in the timbered valley below the aptly named Amphitheatre, which rises to over 3000 m (10,000 ft) above sea level.*

LEFT *The sun rises over Sheffield Beach north of Durban. Along most of the KwaZulu/Natal coast the land and dunes are covered by exuberant tropical or sub-tropical vegetation almost to the high-water mark.*

RIGHT *Dramatic thunderstorms with sheet lightning and vertical strikes, like this one, are common throughout South Africa, except in the Western Cape.*

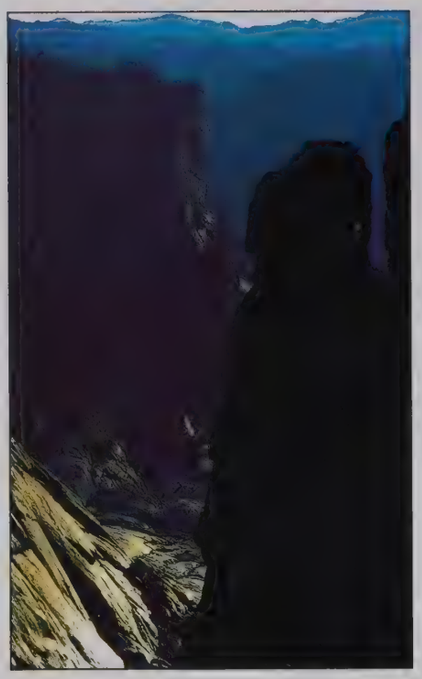


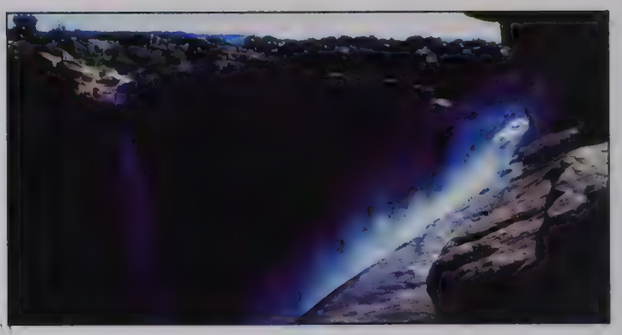
ABOVE *In the splendid Giant's Castle game reserve near Estcourt in KwaZulu/Natal are three great buttresses rising to over 3000 m (10,000 ft) above sea level. Known as the Injasuti Triplets, two of them are visible here, under snow.*

ABOVE *The 360 square kilometre (139 square mile) Lake St Lucia, a shallow and complex estuary and lagoon system in northern KwaZulu/Natal, is one of the world's major wetlands, home to hundreds of thousands of animals, from elephants to sea turtles.*

LEFT *Zulu villages surrounded by their fields dot the ridges and slopes of KwaZulu/Natal's beautiful Valley of a Thousand Hills, so named when white settlers gave up counting the number of hills.*

RIGHT *In the Northern Cape the Orange River plunges deafeningly for almost 100 m (330 ft) into the massive, brooding canyon, 15 km (9 miles) long, that it has cut through flat semi-desert.*

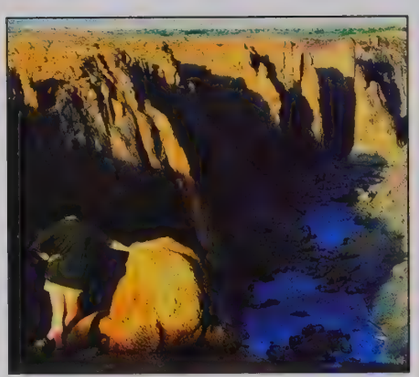




ABOVE *The Augrabies Falls are a series of 19 waterfalls which, when the Orange River is in full flood, become one of the world's six largest waterfalls.*

BELOW *Roads in the Augrabies National Park enable visitors to see the rare and endangered black rhino, some of which have been translocated here for safety.*

RIGHT *The long, narrow and barren gorge downstream from the Augrabies Falls has claimed many lives. Legend has it that the river bed is full of diamonds.*



ABOVE (TOP) *The sun highlights feathery reeds and water lily leaves in a Western Cape pond.*

ABOVE (BOTTOM) *The Ceres district, a major fruit-growing area in the Western Cape, hibernates under winter snow.*

ABOVE *The cold waters of the Atlantic's Benguela Current lap 17-Mile Beach near Saldanha Bay.*

FACING *Acacia trees break up the horizon of the vast Kalahari plains.*

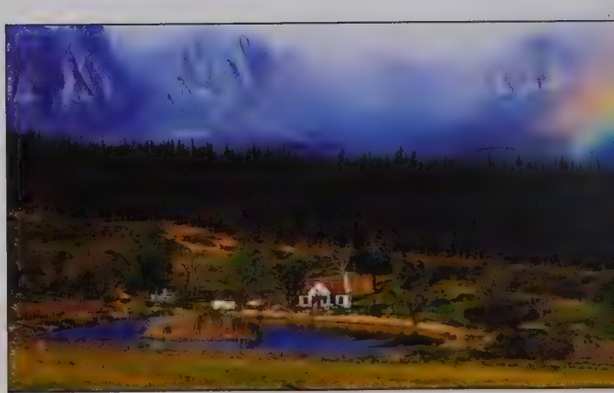
RIGHT *The western side of False Bay, lying between the Cape Peninsula and the mainland, is edged by the rugged cliffs of the Koeëlberg ("Bullet Mountains").*

ABOVE *Pringle Bay, a holiday resort at the eastern end of False Bay in the Western Cape, is dwarfed by its guardian mountains. The water is warm and the bay is famed for fishing.*

LEFT *Old Cape Town suburbs sprawl on the lower slopes of Table Mountain. In the foreground are some of the Cape Peninsula's many thousand flower species.*

BELOW *A small gabled house lies beneath the Western Cape's Helderberg ("Bright Mountains"). The nature reserve here contains magnificent flower species, mainly disa and protea, and birdlife.*

RIGHT *Yachts from around the world drop anchor in lovely Hout ("Wood") Bay and other small harbours near Cape Town. The city is known as "The Tavern of the Seas".*



RIGHT *Lying north of Cape Town is the Hex River Valley, gateway between the green Cape lowlands and the semi-arid Karoo. Crammed with vineyards, the valley produces most of South Africa's export grapes.*

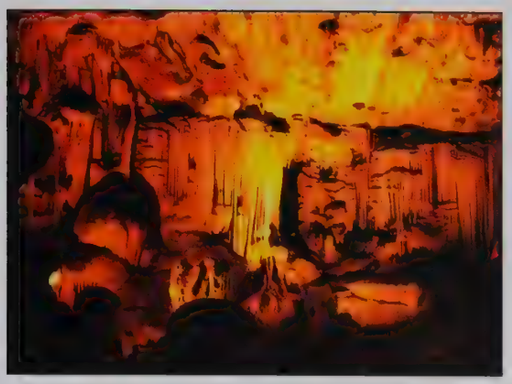
LEFT *Cape Town's old harbour has been converted into the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, many of the old warehouses, quays and office blocks superbly restored as hotels, pubs, shops, museums, art and craft markets, and an oceanarium.*

ABOVE *A highway cuts across the gently rolling hills and golden wheat-fields around Caledon in the Western Cape, renowned for its wild flower gardens on land given by Queen Victoria.*

LEFT *The countryside around Oudtshoorn in the Little Karoo is dry, mainly because of the rain-stopping barrier of the Outeniqua Mountains, seen here in the background. It is, however, excellent ostrich-farming country.*

RIGHT *This gracious old Cape Dutch farmhouse, with gabled front and end walls and wooden window shutters, is typical of farm-houses in the Western Cape winelands, the style well adapted to the Cape's hot summers and damp winters.*

FACING *The Wolfberg ("Wolf Mountain") Arch is one of many bizarre rock formations in the Cedarberg range on the West Coast. The range is popular among rock climbers and hikers and has many species of wild flowers.*

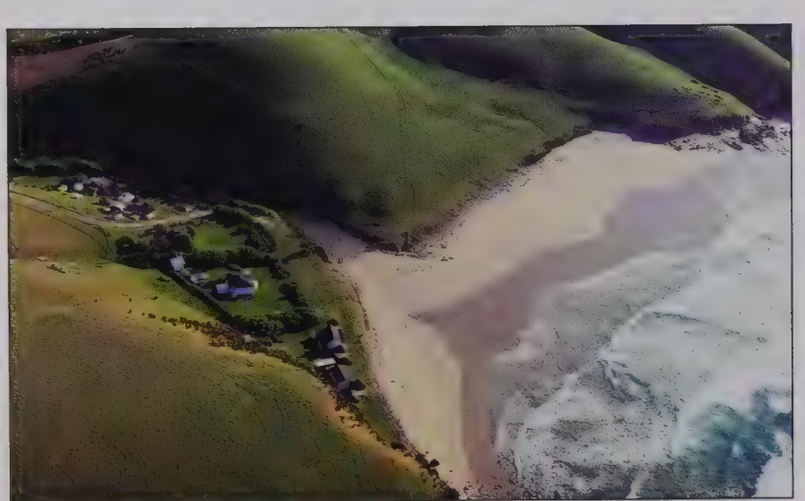


ABOVE *The cathedral-like caverns of the Cango Caves near Oudtshoorn were created over millions of years by lime-rich water filtering through the Groot Swartberg ("Big Black Mountains").*

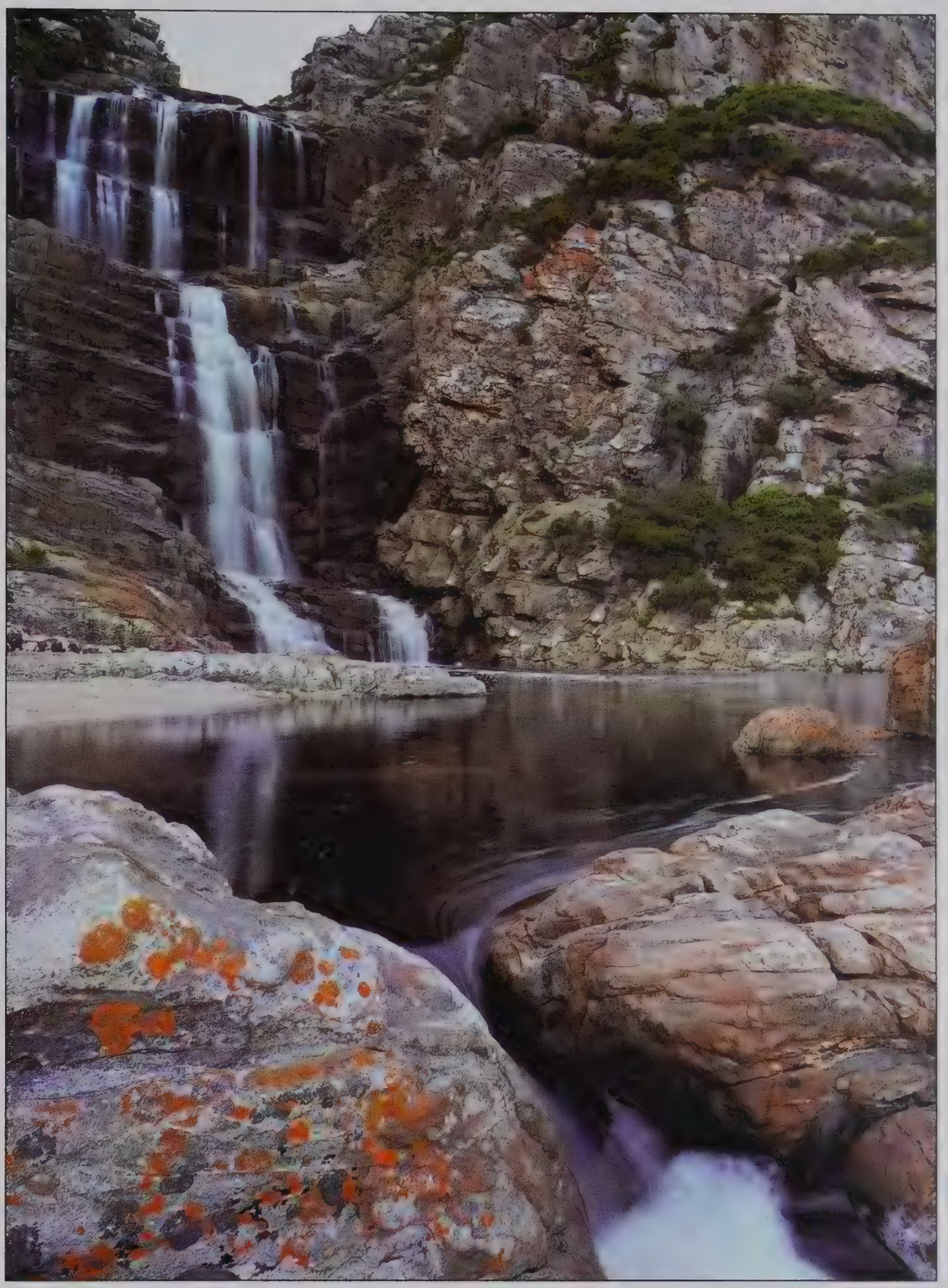
RIGHT *Powerful waves lap the coastline in Goukama Nature Reserve. Gericke Point can be picked out in the distance.*

ABOVE *The cedars that once covered most of today's Cedarberg Wilderness Area, inland from the Cape West Coast, were felled centuries ago but the open landscape is rich in flora, including several unique species, and small wild animals.*

ABOVE *The popular Otter Trail takes hikers along the southern edge of Africa through the Tsitsikamma Coastal Park, with its dense forest and deep gorges. Marine life is protected for 5 km (3 miles) from the shoreline.*



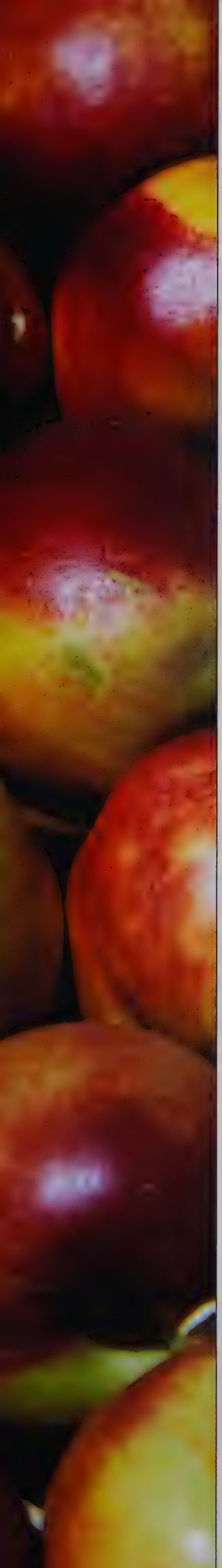
LEFT *The wild and remote Transkei coast in the Eastern Cape has dozens of small holiday resorts and chalets scattered along it, many of them at river estuaries, like these thatched homes near Mbisa.*



ABOVE (RIGHT)

Beautiful cameo scenes like this waterfall, tumbling towards the Indian Ocean, abound along the Transkei coast, a visual feast of mountains, rivers, gorges, beaches and ocean.

RIGHT *Local Xhosa people call this arch "the place of sound" because of the roar of the waves crashing through it. Formed by the sea eroding a wall of offshore rock, it is the most photographed phenomenon on the Transkei coast.*



2

Industry & Agriculture

BUILT ON DIAMONDS AND GOLD over a century ago, South Africa's economy has expanded rapidly into a complex of mining, manufacturing and service industries of First World levels. Industrial output accounts for nearly half of Africa's total industrial output. In 1994, the gross domestic product (GDP) exceeded R382 billion (about £54 billion or US$84 billion), of which about 40 per cent came from Gauteng province, the economic hub of the country. The national economic growth rate is about three per cent.

Manufacturing holds first place in the economy. It employs about 1.4 million people and covers an extensive range of goods, including rubber and petrol from coal, chemicals, mining and other machinery, cars, ships, clothing, most kinds of foods, weapons, timber and newsprint. South Africa exports worldwide, with machinery and motor vehicles topping the list.

Financial, insurance, real estate and business services take second place. Mining, in which about 700,000 people are employed, is third, producing mainly gold,

FACING *These glossy ripe nectarines packed in straw are ready for the shelf. South Africa produces R2.6 billion worth of fruit annually, most of it for export.*

diamonds, iron ore, copper, chrome, manganese, platinum and coal. Gold is still the biggest single foreign exchange earner.

Agriculture employs about 1.2 million people and accounts for about six per cent of the GDP. South Africa produces much the same range of livestock and crops as Britain and North America but because the climate is mostly dry and fluctuates considerably, it imports some basics, such as maize and wheat periodically and beef and mutton regularly. It is a long-established exporter of wines and of citrus and other sub-tropical and deciduous fruits.

Underpinning South Africa's economy is a highly sophisticated infrastructure: over 21,000 km (13,125 miles) of railway and almost 60,000 km (37,500 miles) of roads; national and private airlines carrying more than 4.5 million people a year internally and abroad; eight main ports; annual freight traffic of some 800 million tonnes; a state-of-the-art system of more than four million telephones; nationwide

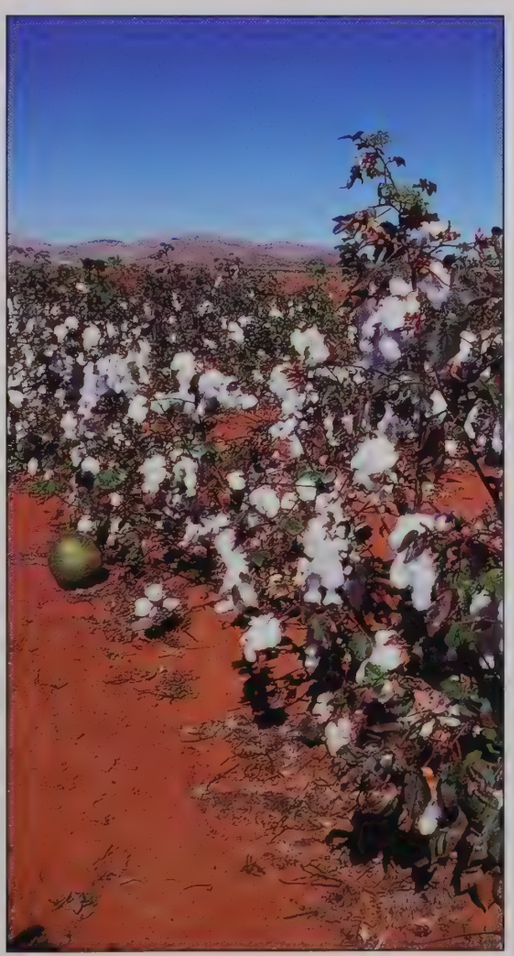
FACING *Always cold and often snow-covered in winter, but hot in summer, Prince Alfred Hamlet in the Western Cape is perfect peach-growing country, as these trees in spring blossom demonstrate.*

RIGHT *Tomatoes, potatoes, avocados, mangoes, paw-paws, pineapples, macadamia nuts, pumpkins, onions – these are just some of the fruits and vegetables produced in the fertile Lowveld of Mpumalanga.*

LEFT *Extremely hot and dry, but with abundant water from the Orange River, the Upington region in the Northern Cape is perfect for growing sultana grapes for sale as fresh produce or for drying.*

FACING *Windpumps and reservoirs are essential for survival in the Northern Cape's sheep-farming Namaqualand, where the meagre rainfall is barely enough to trigger the annual display of wild flowers.*

RIGHT *Because it is so hot, the region where the Kalahari intrudes into the Northern Cape has few pests, making it suitable for cotton cultivation.*



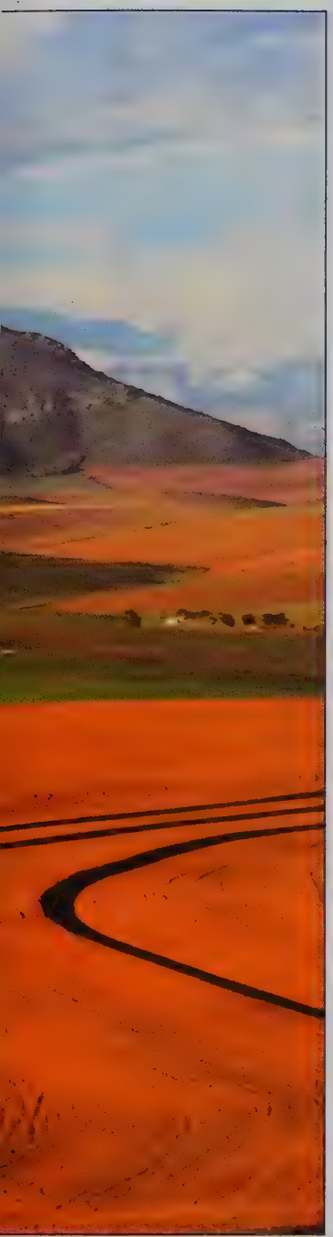
electronic banking; 16 daily, 12 weekly and dozens of local newspapers and scores of magazines; and an electricity output of over 170,000 GWh – 65 per cent of the total output in Africa. There are more than six million motor vehicles in South Africa, half of the total number in Africa.

Some 14.5 million people (13 per cent of the population) are economically active. This is a slightly misleading statistic, however, because millions of South Africans still live traditional lives at subsistence level. The country is now focusing its resources on their advancement and that of its neighbouring countries.

ABOVE *Malmesbury, north of Cape Town in the mountain-hemmed valleys of the Swartland ("Black Country"), lies in South Africa's wheat belt. The area has been farmed since 1743.*

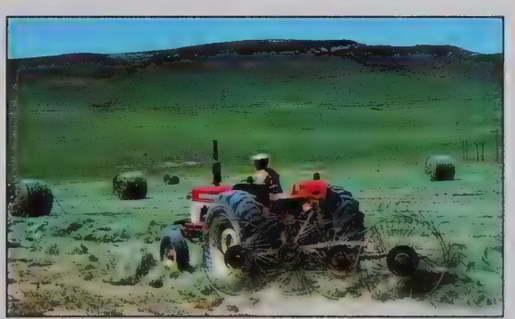
LEFT *Wild flowers decorate the edges of neat canals in the Northern province where water from the Luvuvhu River irrigates citrus orchards.*

FACING *A professional sheep shearer at work in the Eastern Cape contributes to South Africa's substantial output of wool and mohair.*

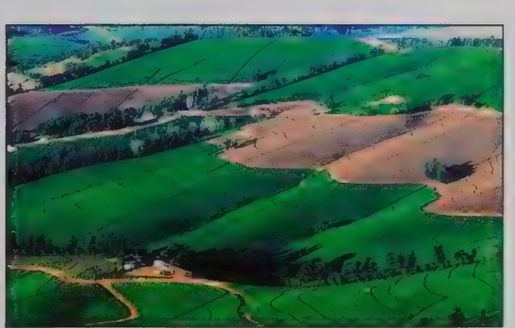


ABOVE *Seen from the air, homesteads and staff quarters are small islands in the sea of sugar cane that covers much of what were once grassy hills and forested valleys in KwaZulu/Natal.*

LEFT *A long quay was built out into Saldanha Bay on the West Coast for ore carriers to load iron ore. The ore is brought by trains that are sometimes several kilometres long.*



LEFT *Mown hay for cattle fodder is rolled into large barrel-shaped bales on a farm near Potchefstroom in North West province.*



LEFT *Neatly laid-out tea plantations follow the steep contours below the Drakensberg at Magoebaskloof in the Northern province.*

ABOVE *To gather* waterblommetjies *("little water flowers"), an essential ingredient of some traditional South African dishes, harvesters have to work waist-deep in water.*

ABOVE *Fishing families at Arniston on the southernmost tip of Africa have lived for generations in these simple, comfortable Cape Dutch homes.*

RIGHT *The fierce but easily caught and delectable fish species, snoek, is sold by roadside hawkers throughout the Cape Peninsula.*

ABOVE *Timber production is important to South Africa's economy, and the country's plantations are among the largest in the world.*

ABOVE *Autumn paints the vine leaves before they fall for the winter in the Western Cape's Hex River Valley, where the hot summers yield heavy crops of table grapes for export.*

LEFT *A fat bunch of grapes, glistening with dew, is ready for picking to grace a table in some far corner of the world.*

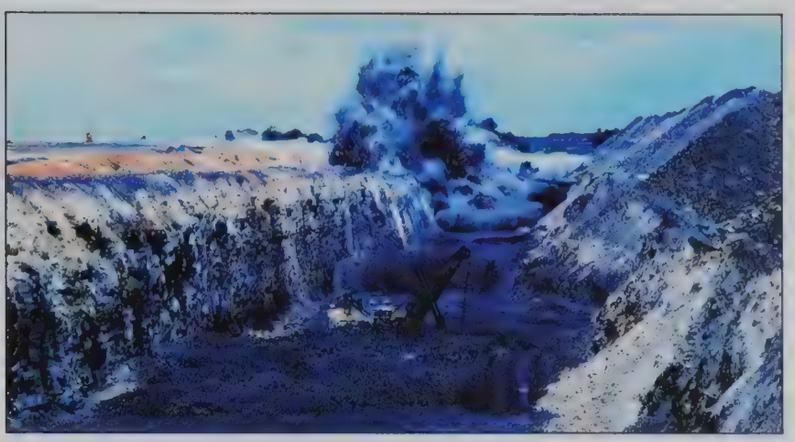
ABOVE *The vineyards on the Hamilton Russel estate near Hermanus, east of Cape Town, are the source of some of the finest of South Africa's great variety of wines.*

ABOVE *Huge old engraved vats of imported oak line the cellars of the KWV, South Africa's leading wine-making cooperative, at its headquarters in Paarl, Western Cape.*

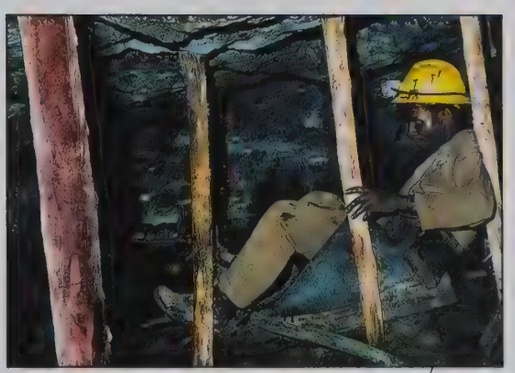
LEFT *These small maturation vats are in the cellars of the Hamilton Russel estate, near Cape Town. The estate is renowned for the high quality of its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines.*

RIGHT *This view of the Hex River Valley table grape region shows typically whitewashed farm buildings lying between vineyards of Barlinka grapes.*

ABOVE *Miners push a heavy trolley in the sweltering heat of a gold mine tunnel, deep underground, where the ceiling has been strengthened with reinforced concrete.*



RIGHT *Down at the rock face, the deepest place underground, a miner holds his hydraulic drill in place with practised pressure exerted by his foot.*



ABOVE *At an open-cast coal mine the overburden is broken by blasting before being removed to expose the seam. South Africa has enormous coal reserves.*

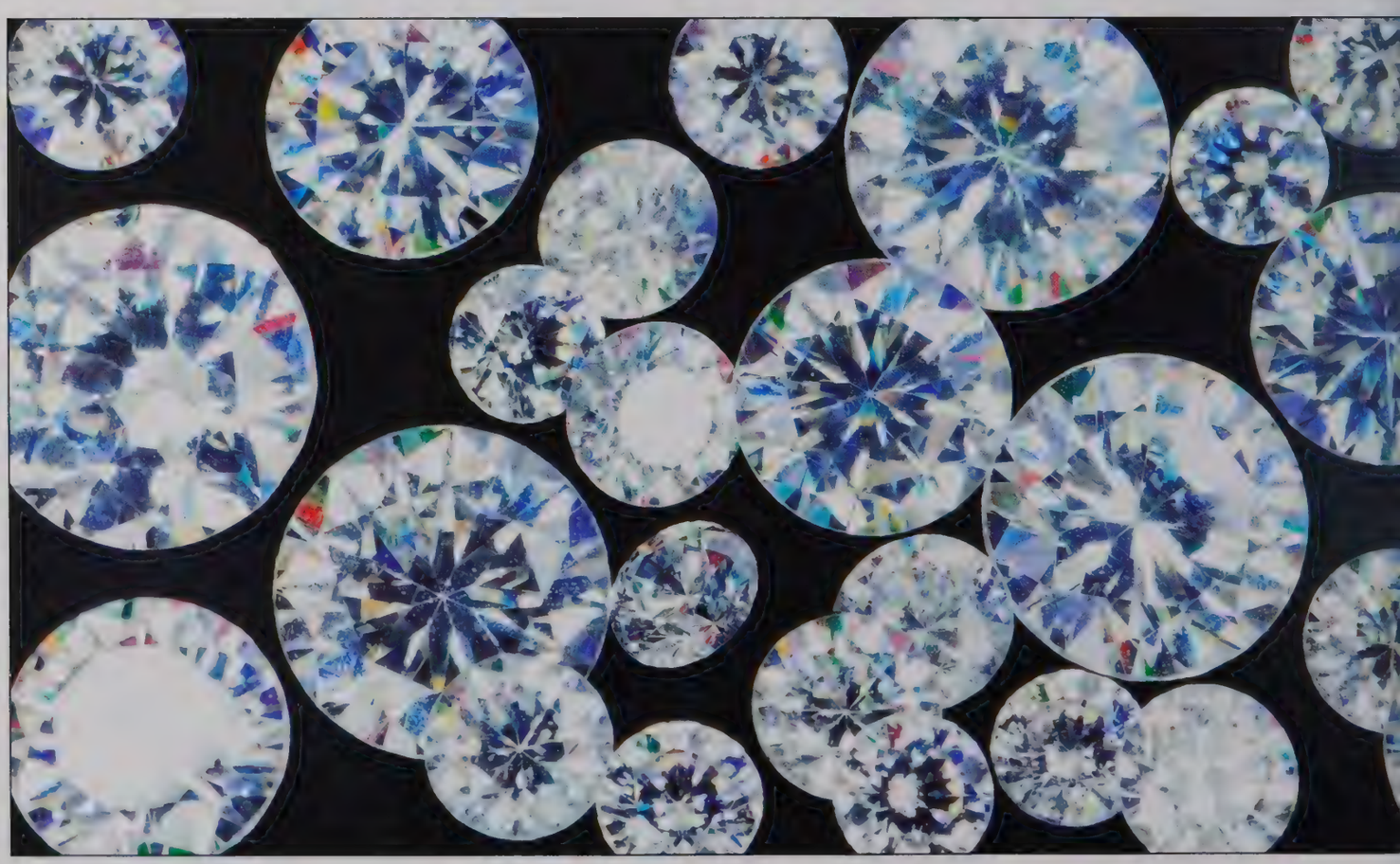
LEFT *An indication of the size of this open-cast coal mine at Witbank in Mpumalanga is provided by the bulldozer in the centre, just below the giant bucket scraper.*

RIGHT *The humble Methodist Church is one of four churches, now seldom used, in Pilgrim's Rest, a preserved mining town built during the gold rush of the 1870s.*

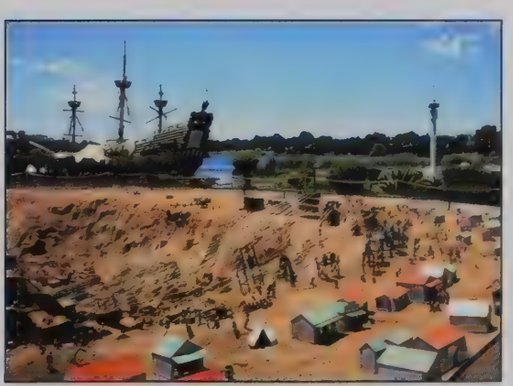
FACING *The headgear of an old abandoned gold mine stands rusting on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Modern headgears are square concrete columns.*

RIGHT *The landscape scarred by copper mining at Nababeep, in the Namaqualand Desert of the Northern Cape, is partially softened by an ebullient display of spring flowers.*

BELOW *Diamonds – South Africa's best friend – remain one of the country's foremost sources of wealth. Gemstone exports alone earned R9.8 billion (about £1.4 billion) in 1994, and the South African company, De Beers, controls the world diamond market.*



LEFT *At the Rand Refinery, which serves South Africa's whole gold industry, molten gold is poured into standard bars. Gold exports in 1994 earned R22.8 billion (about £3.2 billion).*



LEFT *At the Santarama Miniland in Johannesburg is a small-scale model of early gold mining, before the reef went too deep for open workings and new techniques had to be developed.*

LEFT *Zulu miners perform a traditional dance in the reconstructed part of old Johannesburg in Gold Reef City, the site of the former Crown Mine, among the richest gold mines in history.*

RIGHT *Visitors to Gold Reef City stroll down the street of a typical early mining village, with a headgear in the background.*

RIGHT *The reconstruction in Gold Reef City includes horse-drawn carriages, a hotel with "brookie lace" ironwork and many other old buildings in the classic turn-of-century style.*

ABOVE *Since the end of apartheid, South Africa's tourist industry has flourished. Among the major attractions are luxury game reserve lodges, such as the Sabi Sabi in the Kruger National Park.*

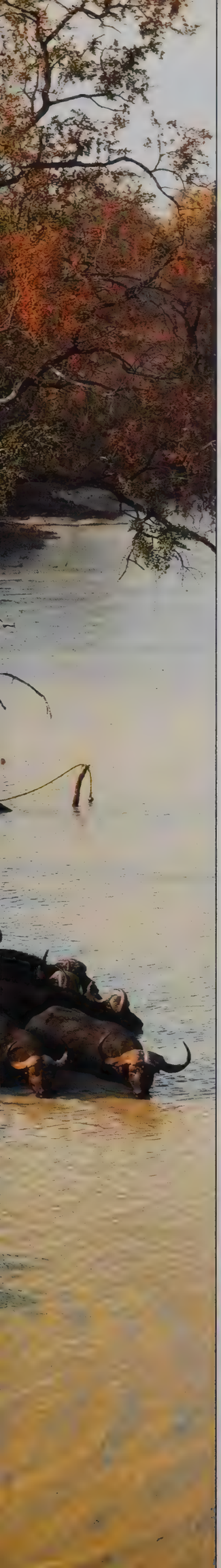
LEFT *Mala Mala, like all luxury game reserve lodges in South Africa, offers its guests the chance to see wild animals at close quarters, in this instance a herd of phlegmatic buffalo.*

RIGHT *Hunting game birds is a big attraction for tourists, who can hire dogs such as this golden retriever to help in hunting guinea fowl.*

ABOVE *During sunset game-watching drives in private reserves, tourists can view wild animals from the roofs of specially designed vehicles.*

ABOVE *At the Scratch Patch in Fish Hoek, Cape Peninsula, customers can choose for themselves from a huge variety of polished semi-precious and plain stones.*

RIGHT *One of the biggest selling items in the new South Africa is the colourful new South African flag, displayed on everything from flagpoles to socks.*



3

WILDLIFE

SOUTH AFRICA'S HUGE AND PRECIOUS collection of wildlife is unmatched anywhere in the world. Other African states may have more of certain species, and some still experience the great wildlife migrations no longer seen in South Africa, but after the extinction of the quagga and the blue buck, the decimation of many species by hunters and the massive depredation of the sparse forests, the country's conservationists took steps to protect their valuable heritage and their efforts have paid off handsomely.

There are now 16 land and marine national parks in South Africa and about 70 provincial reserves. In addition, game abounds on hundreds of farms, some where the animals are commercially farmed, others where they are kept for tourism purposes or simply for the owners' satisfaction. Nearly six per cent of the land has been set aside as public reserves.

Mammals number 338 species, including southern right whales and dolphins. All of Africa's "Big Five" are here – elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard. South Africa is the only African country where both black and white rhino are adequately

FACING *Cape buffalo, big cousins of domestic cattle, gather in herds several hundred strong, sometimes thousands. These buffalo drinking in the Sabi River are part of a much larger herd concealed by the bush.*

protected and thriving. Its deserts are home to exotic antelope such as gemsbuck and springbuck. It has cheetah, hyaena, wild dogs, elephant shrews, several kinds of mongoose, seals, badgers...the list is almost endless and includes a wealth of bizarre creatures such as earthworms measuring over 2 m (6 ft 6 in) long.

Reptile species number about 400, including the largest variety of tortoises in the world and many beautiful snakes, most of them harmless.

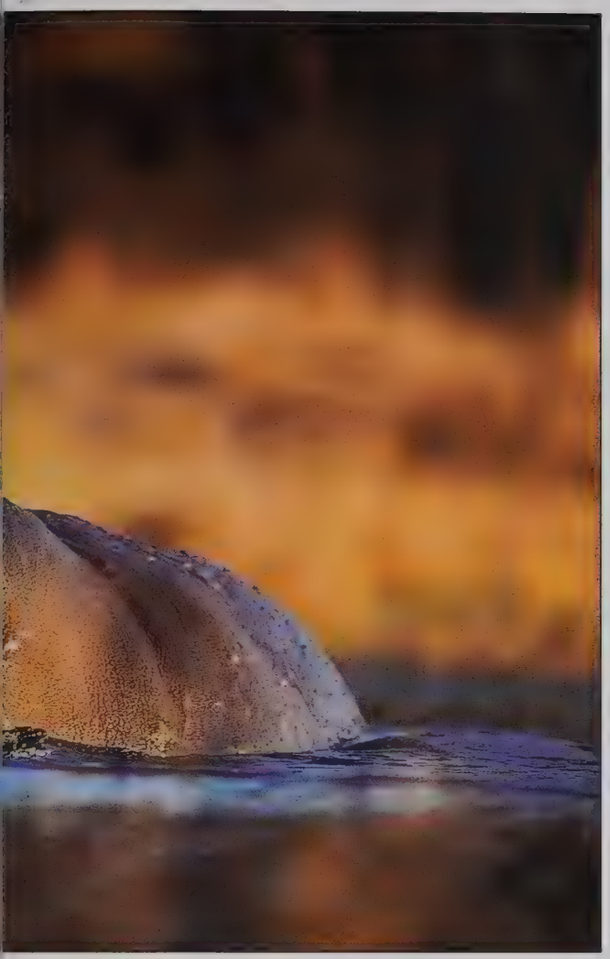
There are nearly 900 species of birds. Different birds require different habitats and there is no one area where all species can be found. Some regions have great variety and concentrations. About 490 species have been recorded in the Kruger National Park, for example, and the parks and reserves in KwaZulu/Natal are used by a great range of sea and land birds. Vast numbers of water birds congregate in the lagoons and estuaries along the West Coast. Many species migrate from as far afield as Siberia. Many birds are highly specialized, like the heron that fishes with bait, the weaver that builds grassy apartment blocks, the vulture that likes palm nuts and the tiny penduline tit that enters its nest via a secret door.

The 80,000 or so recorded insects are adapted to exploit almost any environment – inside animals and man, in the sea, in rivers, in the soil, on plants and on carrion. Some insects, such as bees, flies, butterflies, weevils, moths, wasps and fleas, have been exhaustively studied. About others, such as the curious stick insects, little is known. Some, like ticks, are a nuisance and are economically harmful. Most dangerous by far is the tiny, malaria-carrying *Anopheles* mosquito. Other insects are beneficial, like the praying mantis which eats mosquitoes. Some, such as the mopane worm, are African delicacies.

In general, the people of South Africa co-exist comfortably with all these creatures. Bushpigs, baboons, leopards, snakes, wasps, spiders, scorpions and other potentially dangerous creatures are commonplace on farms and in some urban areas, but encounters are infrequent and injuries rare.

ABOVE *A hippo surges from the water in a threatening display of power. The gigantic mouth is equipped with thick canines up to 60 cm (2 ft) long which can do terrible damage.*

BELOW *Buffalo can weigh up to a ton and are usually placid animals but, when angry, can become formidable opponents. Their heavy horns are respected even by lions.*

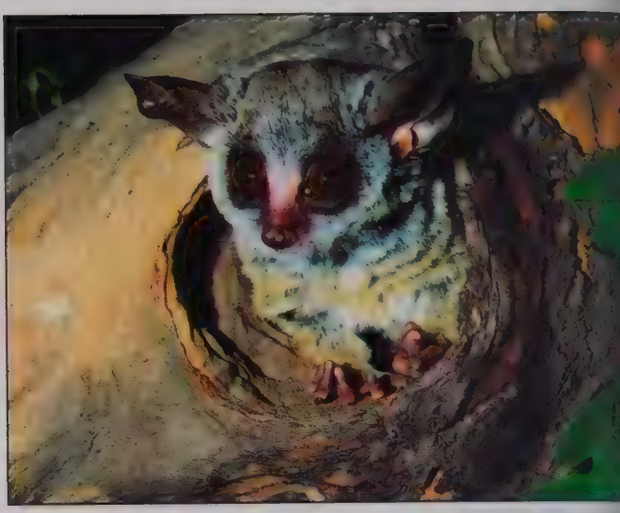


BELOW *Springbuck rams joust for dominance in the Kalahari Desert. Usually, jousting is in play but when they are competing for females the fighting can be fierce.*

ABOVE *Wildebeest need to drink often but they are so fearful of crocodiles that at the slightest hint of danger they flee from the water, like these wildebeest in a Mpumalanga game reserve.*

RIGHT *The suricate, a member of the mongoose family, lives in desert regions and is much photographed because of its human-like posture. These two are on sentry duty in the Kalahari.*

RIGHT *The magnificent leopard is the most wily and powerful of the big cats, a killing machine when on the hunt. It is quite common in South Africa but is seldom seen outside game reserves.*



BELOW *The white rhino is larger and heavier than the black rhino, and is clearly distinguished by its broad flat mouth. The black rhino has a prehensile lip and is a browser.*

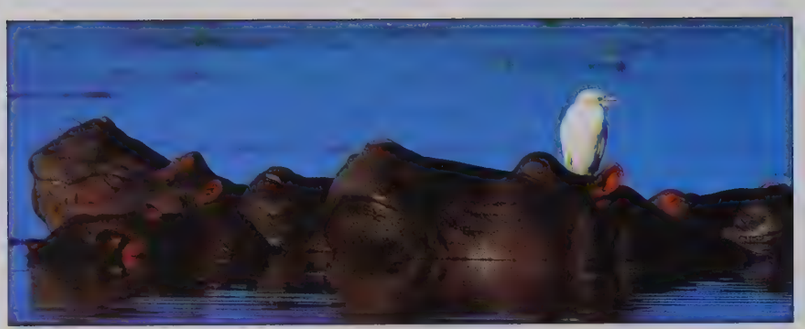
FACING *A creature of the night, the thick-tailed bushbaby (or galago) is often seen in camps in eastern game reserves. The big eyes help it hunt insects in the dark.*

LEFT *An opportunistic black-backed jackal lurks among a springbuck herd drinking in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park in the hope of finding a stray calf.*

FACING *The honey-badger (or ratel), an omnivorous and nocturnal animal, supplements its diet by raiding bee hives, hence its name. It is apparently immune to bee stings.*

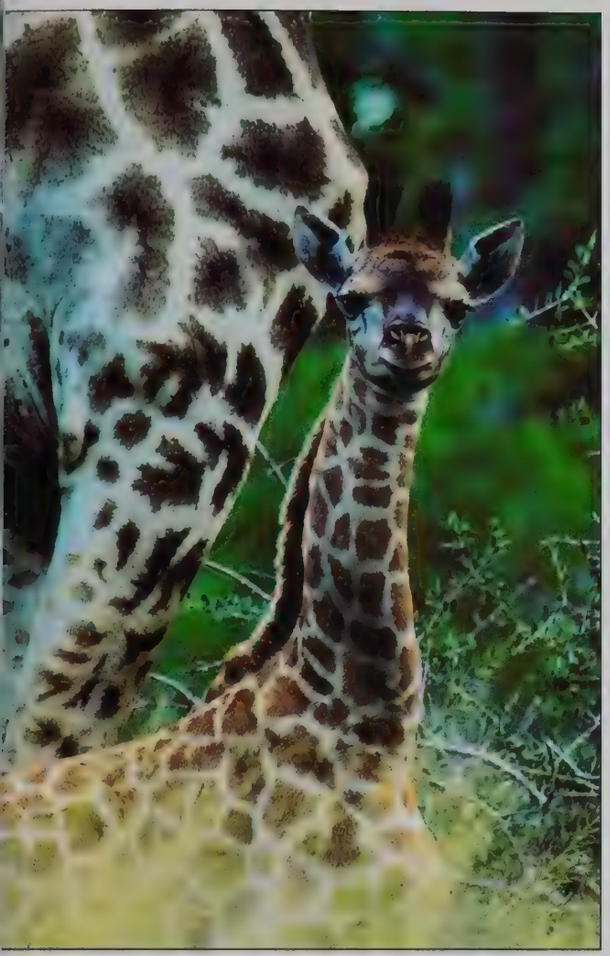
RIGHT *Africa's wild horse and one of the main items in the diets of lions, leopards, hyaenas and other predators, the skittish zebra has only its speed for defence.*

ABOVE *A young cheetah scans the sunny grasslands of KwaZulu/Natal for prey. Cheetahs are the fastest animals on four legs.*



LEFT *Because their skins are very sensitive to the sun, hippos spend most of the day in the water. Here, hippos in KwaZulu/Natal's Mkuzi game reserve provide a perch for a cattle egret.*

RIGHT *The delicate Cape fox is not often seen because it lives in deserts, such as the Kalahari, where it feeds mainly on mice and insects.*



LEFT *A giraffe less than a year old stares inquisitively at the photographer from the reassurance of its mother's side in the Mala Mala private game reserve.*

ABOVE *Cuddly looking hyaena cubs, still too innocent to be cautious, sunbathe near the entrance to their burrow. Female hyaenas are fiercely protective of their young.*

BELOW *Safety for a baby elephant is the massive bulk of its mother and the presence of the rest of the herd. Youngsters are sometimes attacked by lions.*

LEFT *The waterbuck, seen here in KwaZulu/Natal's Hluhluwe Park, is so named because it favours rivers and wetlands. It is the only buck with a ring on its rump.*

BOTTOM (LEFT) *These wild dog pups, sitting at the entrance to their lair, will develop coat patterns as distinctive as finger-prints.*

BOTTOM (RIGHT) *Crocodiles are outstanding mothers and gently carry their newly hatched young from nest to water in their powerful jaws and in the pouch beneath the jaws.*

LEFT *A heavy-maned male lion lazily roars his announcement that the evening's hunting is about to begin, displaying the fangs that all animals in Africa respect.*

BOTTOM (LEFT) *A family of dwarf mongooses sunbathes on a termite heap. Incurably inquisitive, dwarf mongooses vanish instantly when approached but generally re-emerge within minutes.*

BOTTOM (RIGHT) *Nocturnal but often seen by day in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, the quill-armoured porcupine is Africa's largest rodent.*

ABOVE *The classic African scene – a solitary bull elephant strolls in majestic splendour beneath a stormy sky, master of all he surveys.*

RIGHT *Wild dogs, an endangered species, have an extremely close-knit family system and take great care of their pups.*

ABOVE *Dust rises as the two-ton bodies of these white rhino bulls collide in a territorial dispute in the Kruger National Park. Sometimes such fights are fatal.*

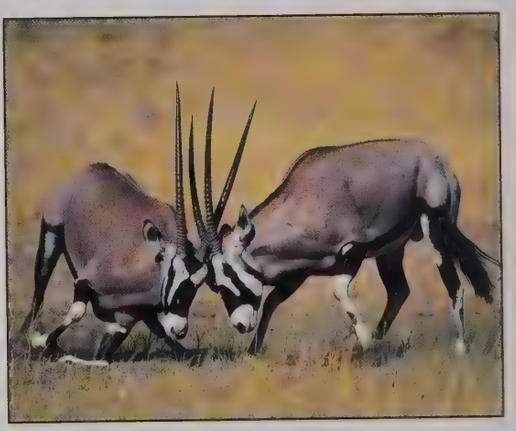
RIGHT *A grey vervet monkey eats the blossoms of a flame creeper in the Kruger National Park. Very common in the sub-tropics, these monkeys have become a pest in some areas.*

LEFT *South Africa is famous for its many species of tortoise. This magnificent beast is commonly known as the leopard or mountain tortoise.*

RIGHT *Warthogs are plentiful in South Africa's northern and eastern regions. In spite of their razor-sharp teeth, they are delectable to many predators.*

LEFT *In their play with "toys" such as tree branches and with each other, lion cubs learn many of the skills they will need to survive when they become adults.*

BELOW *Gemsbuck bulls battle over territory in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. Their strength, speed and lance-like horns make them one of the most feared of antelope, respected even by lions.*



RIGHT *The dainty klip-springer, seen here in the Kruger National Park, is about 60 cm (2 ft) high at the shoulder and has hooves specially adapted to its rocky habitats. The hairs of its coat are hollow, for warmth.*

ABOVE *Sunrise in the Kruger National Park silhouettes a giraffe and trees on the still water of a pond – a typical scene in the many game reserves in the Lowveld.*

LEFT *A superb example of the rather scarce sable antelope, this powerful bull in the Lowveld displays perfectly matched horns. The oxpeckers clinging to his hide feed on ticks and other parasites.*

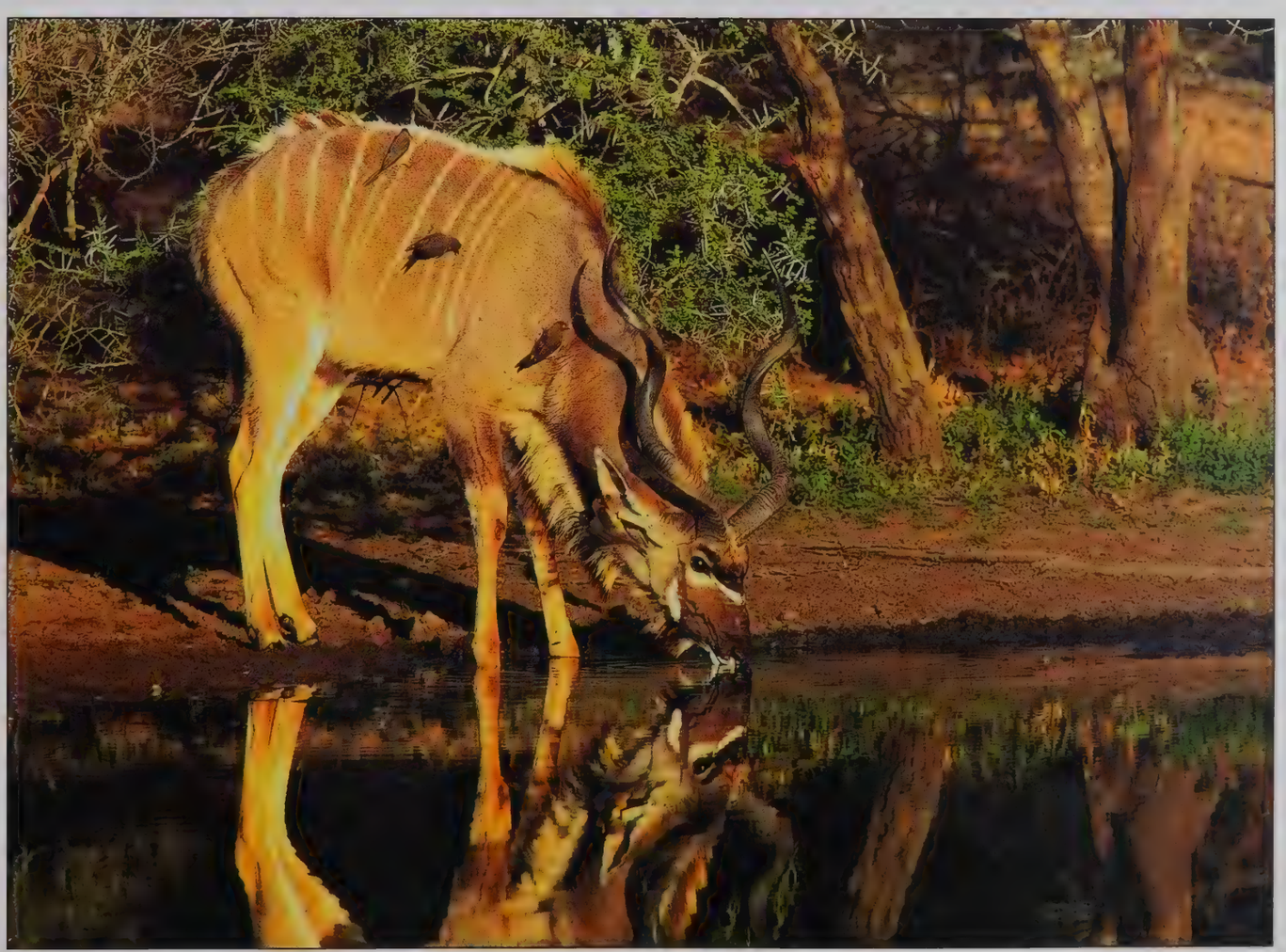
LEFT *Giant girdled lizards, reaching 30 cm (1 ft) long and looking like small dinosaurs, live in colonies dug into the sand in central South Africa. They are also known as sungazers because they like to bask in the sun.*

LEFT *A female fruit bat with her offspring clinging to her belly hangs suspended by her claws from the roof of a cave. These bats have fox-like faces and feed by night.*

BELOW *The Cape ground squirrel is an inhabitant of the desert. It lives in colonies in warrens dug into the sand, emerging cautiously to forage.*

LEFT *Only the head of this waterbuck is visible above tall grass in the Kruger National Park but it is immediately identifiable by its curved, slightly forward-swept horns.*

BELOW *Many people rate the greater kudu as the most beautiful of all buck, with its gracefully spiralled horns, attractive markings and elegant stride. It can easily clear a 2 m (6 ft 6 in) fence from a standing jump.*



LEFT *For the first few months of their lives baby baboons spend most of their time riding on their mothers' backs or clinging to their bellies. Baboons take excellent care of their young.*

BELOW *Cape buffalo come down past a grazing impala to drink at a waterhole. These animals can go for quite long periods without water if the grazing is good.*

RIGHT *Pound for pound, the toughest animal in Africa is the honey-badger (or ratel), whose power, thick hide, sharp claws and irascibility have been known to make even a lion think twice.*

ABOVE *Their glossy coats showing that they are in good health, an impala ewe is nuzzled by her lamb in the Kruger National Park, where they outnumber all other buck and are the main prey of the larger predators.*

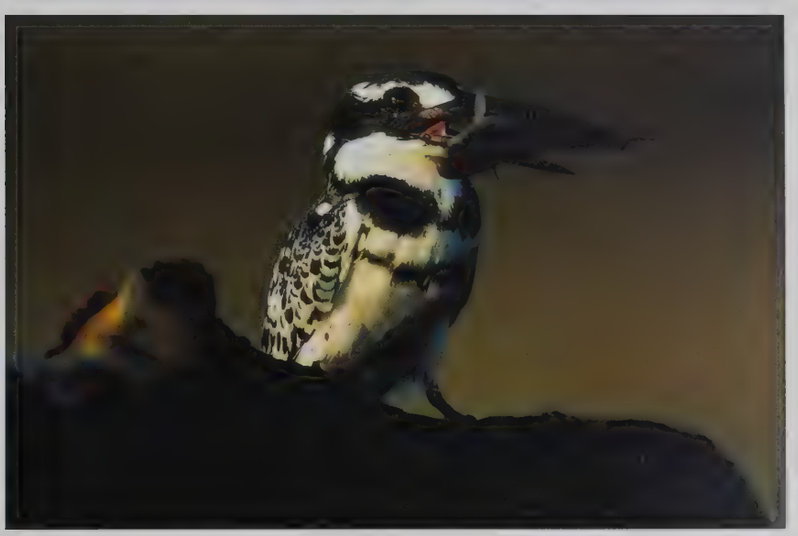
LEFT *The big ears of a kudu cow can pick up the sounds of danger from a considerable distance away. Like this one, they tend to be inquisitive animals.*

ABOVE *Lesser flamingos are found in many parts of South Africa, wherever there are stretches of water containing enough of the microscopic algae and plankton they filter out with their inverted beaks.*

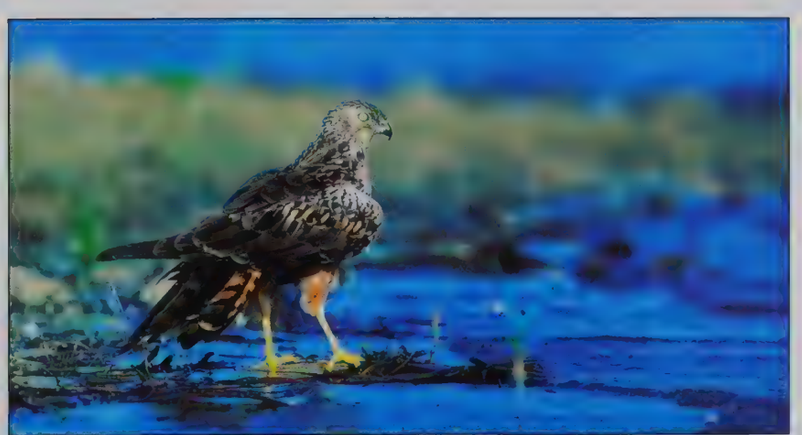
LEFT *The brown-hooded kingfisher, unlike most of the nine other kingfisher species in South Africa, hunts mainly on dry land for anything from scorpions and crickets to lizards, mice and small snakes.*

RIGHT *One of South Africa's most spectacular birds is the crimson-breasted shrike, whose flame-red chest is clearly visible in its arid western habitat.*

BELOW *The orange-breasted bush shrike, with its striking sunburst plumage, inhabits the warmer, wetter northern and eastern areas of the country.*



RIGHT *The African marsh harrier is so called because it commonly flies low over wetlands as it hunts for frogs, small rodents, nestlings and similar prey.*



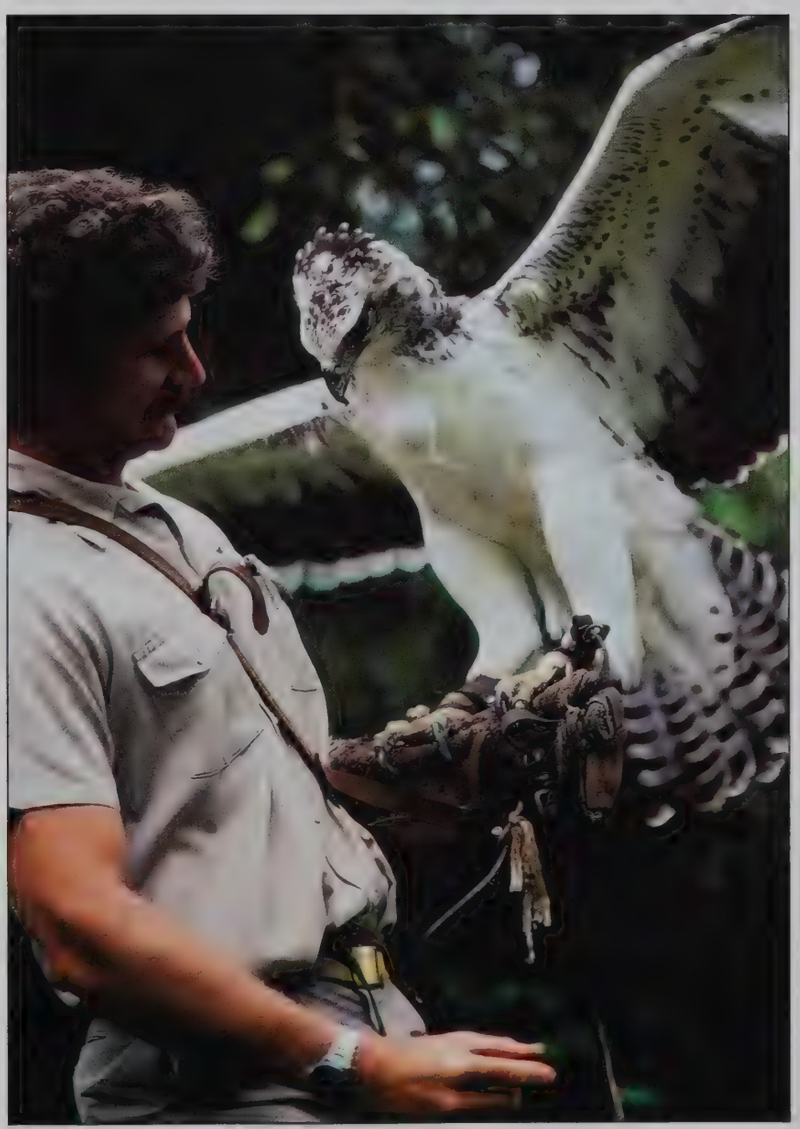
ABOVE *A pied kingfisher sits on a perch with its catch in the Kruger National Park. It will deftly juggle the fish around in its beak until it is in the right position, then quickly swallow it head first.*

ABOVE *The white-backed vulture, whose wingspan exceeds 2 m (6 ft 6 in), is common right across the north of South Africa, from desert to tropics. This one is perched in a tree in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park.*

LEFT *One of the comics of the Kruger National Park, with its lumbering flight and wobbly landings, is the yellow-billed hornbill. This one is eating insects in the park's Satara camp.*

LEFT *The markings and plumage of this white-faced owl give it excellent camouflage on its nest in a camelthorn tree in the Northern province. These owls hunt mainly rodents and other birds.*

LEFT *The garishly coloured, goose-sized ground hornbill is one of South Africa's larger birds, often seen walking around in game reserves. A voracious feeder, it swallows small mammals and reptiles whole, including hares and live snakes.*



LEFT *This young martial eagle will develop into one of the largest and most awesome raptors. They kill prey not with their beaks but with their sharp, powerful claws.*

ABOVE *A blacksmith plover bathes in a rain puddle. Its name derives from its routine call, which sounds like a distant hammer beating an anvil.*

RIGHT *Young collared sunbirds wait expectantly to be fed by their hard-working parents, who look after them for a month or more after birth.*

RIGHT *A white pelican comes in for a landing in KwaZulu/Natal's Mkuzi game reserve, while the flock lines up on the water to hunt fish together.*

BELOW *In South Africa the crested guinea fowl is found only in the north-eastern sub-tropical terrain, such as that in the Kruger National Park. They feed on a wide variety of items, from berries to beetles.*

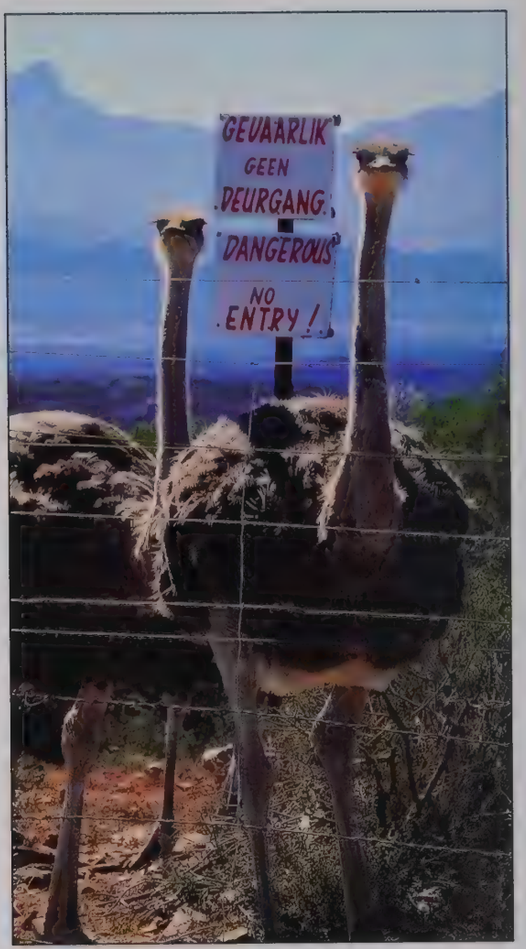
LEFT *The nectar of proteas is part of the diet of the Cape sugarbird, found in the far south between the West Coast and Port Elizabeth. Other items include spiders and insects.*

BELOW *The black-headed oriole, with its vividly contrasting colours, is one of the more striking residents of the Lowveld and its clear song is usually heard before the bird is seen.*

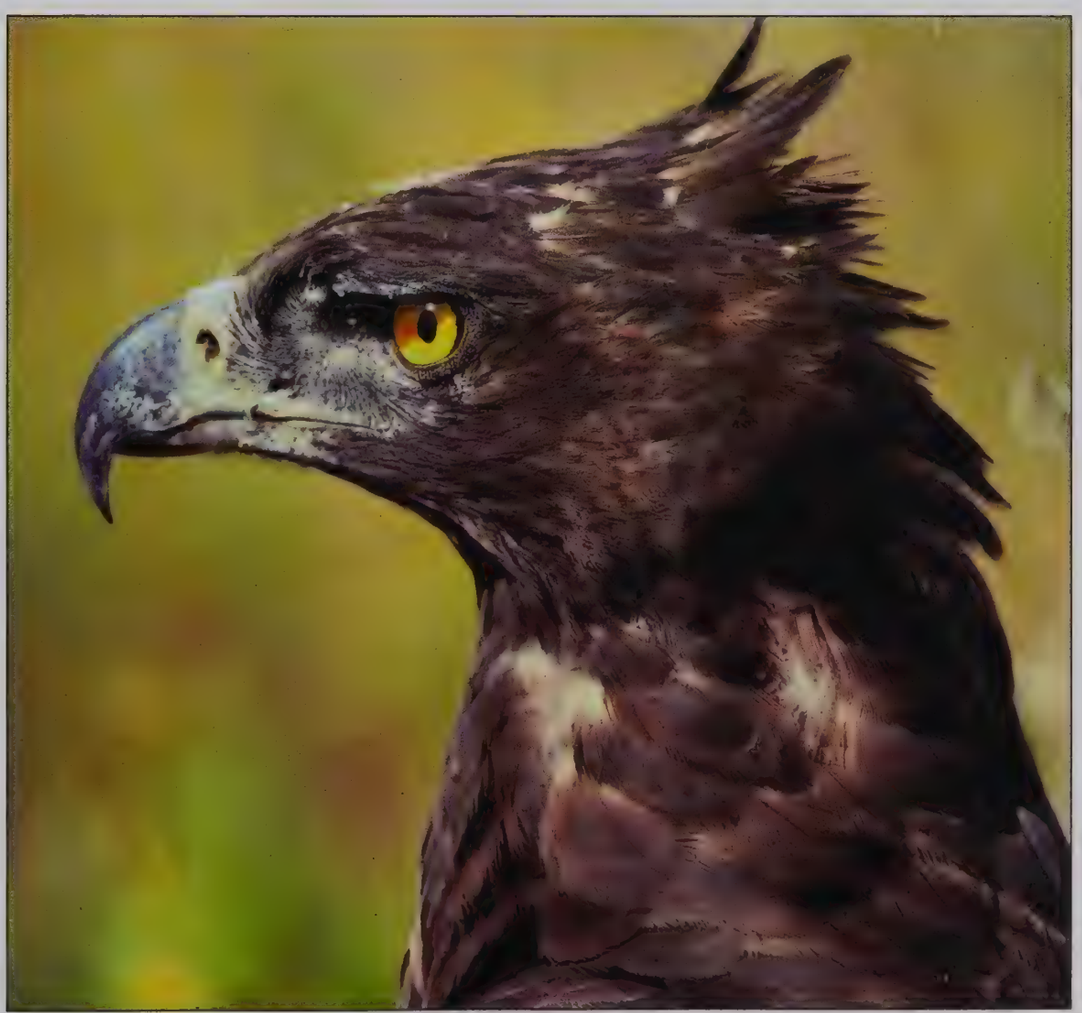
LEFT *The South African or "jackass" penguin, named for its harsh call, occurs only on the South African coast and islands. Once found in large numbers, the population has been greatly reduced by overfishing and by oil pollution from ships.*

RIGHT *Few birds have plumage as brightly coloured as that of the Knysna lourie. About as big as a bantam, this species inhabits the forests along the warm east coast.*

FAR RIGHT *The ubiquitous ostrich, largest of all birds, brought fortunes to farmers at the turn of the century when its feathers were highly fashionable. It is now becoming popular for its meat and hide.*



RIGHT *The crowned crane, found only in the north-east of the country, becomes quite tame but is a bad-tempered bird likely to bite the hand that feeds it.*



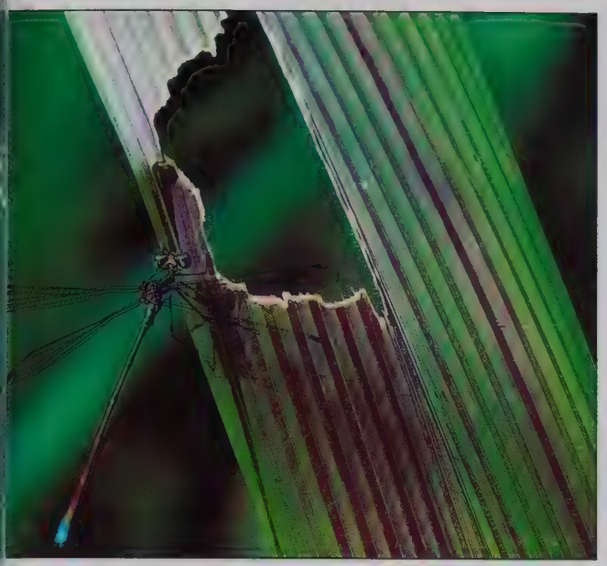
ABOVE *The iridescent blue on this plum-coloured starling glistens in the sunlight. These birds feed mainly on fruit and are seasonal migrants to the northern regions of South Africa.*

LEFT *The imperious expression and golden eye of the martial eagle, a bird large enough to kill small buck, show why royalty through the ages have chosen eagles as a symbol of power.*

LEFT *Dragonflies are one of the more aggressive predators in the teeming world of insects, snatching other insects in flight, including other dragonflies.*

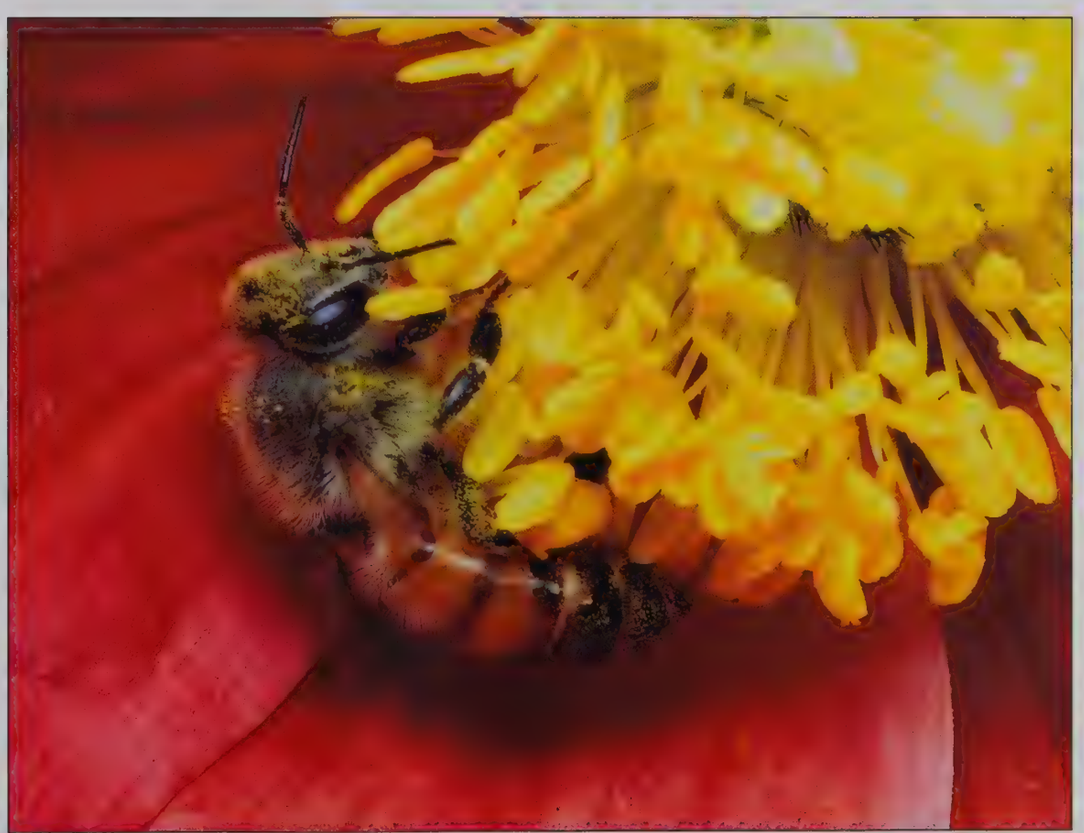
RIGHT *A member of the large family of short-horned grasshoppers feeds on a juicy bud. Most of these grasshoppers are fairly harmless but some can do great damage to gardens and crops.*

BELOW *Like some monster from outer space, a hairy but harmless luna moth displays its huge antennae, shaped like fern fronds.*



ABOVE *The harmless damselfly is similar to, but not to be confused with, the predatory dragonfly. Clouds of damselflies sometimes appear in South Africa's tropical and sub-tropical forests.*

RIGHT *A single-horned praying mantis waits motionless to snatch an insect. Many mantids are camouflaged to resemble the plants in which they hunt.*



LEFT *An African honeybee, covered in pollen, gathers nectar. This species was introduced into South America where it has since become a menace.*

ABOVE *The termites that built this tower in the Northern province may have tunnelled hundreds of metres down to find water. Each of the several species of termites in South Africa has a specialized diet and a complex social structure.*

LEFT *A termite queen does nothing but eat and lay eggs while the workers attend her constantly and the soldiers, with their big red armoured heads, protect her.*

LEFT *Without the energetic dung beetle, it is said, Africa would be covered in animal droppings. Dung beetles have been exported to Australia to save it from being buried in cattle dung.*

BELOW *Dung beetles (or scarabs) bury an elephant dropping in the Addo National Park. They feed on dung and make balls from it in which to lay their eggs.*

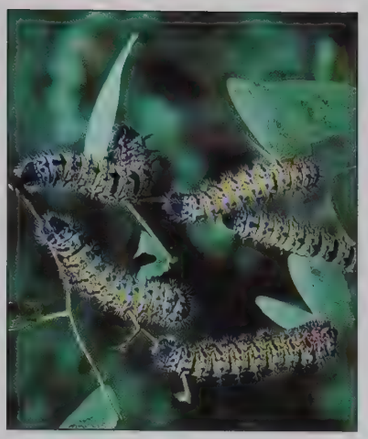
ABOVE *A mass of recently hatched ladybird beetles mill about before taking off to begin life elsewhere. They are useful to gardeners in destroying some parasites.*

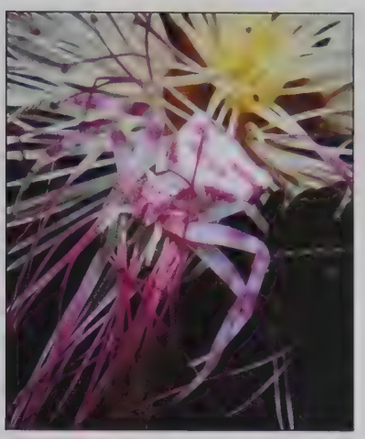
LEFT *The red velvet mite, resembling a tiny cushion, belongs to the same family as spiders. It is one of many species of African mites, some harmful, others not, that live on animals and plants.*

ABOVE *A luna moth, just emerged from its cocoon on the twig above, begins to unfurl and dry its huge, beautiful wings. The big "eyes" on the wings are to scare off predators.*

LEFT *A flock of delicately patterned and coloured migratory butterflies pauses to drink from the moist earth. When disturbed they rise gently from the ground like windblown petals.*

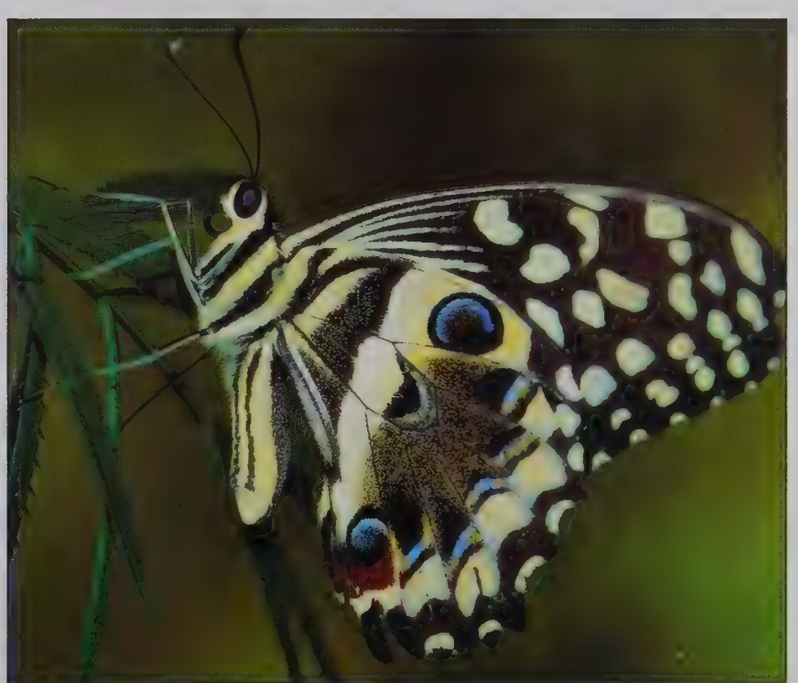
RIGHT *Mopane worms, caterpillars of an emperor moth, feed only on the leaves of mopane trees. When dried, they are a popular African delicacy.*





LEFT *The pink and white flower crab spider takes on the colours of its host blossom to camouflage itself from both prey and predators.*

ABOVE *This close-up of the wing of a citrus swallowtail butterfly reveals the intricate patterns of minute reflecting scales that give shape and colour to the butterfly's camouflage.*



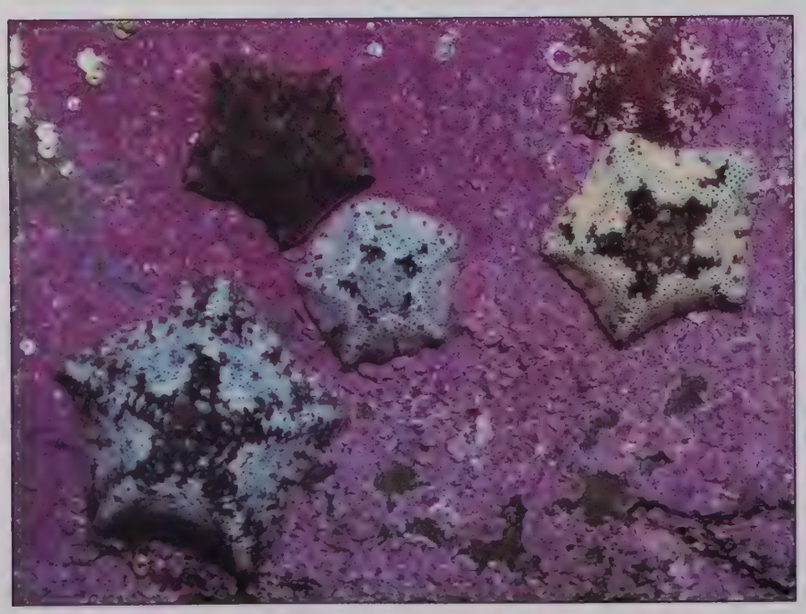
LEFT *The citrus swallow-tail butterfly is a miniature pageant of resplendent colours – but only for a day or two, until it has mated and dies.*

LEFT *Sea anemones filter the currents with their red tentacles in the Western Cape tidal zone. These sea creatures come in many colours.*

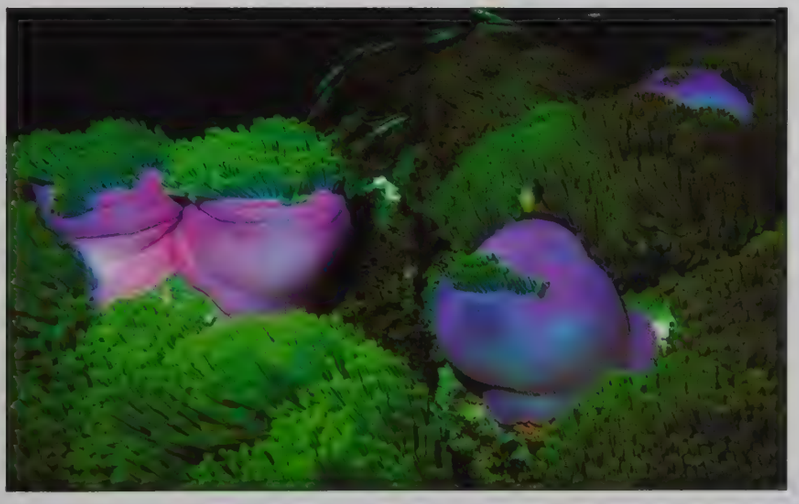
ABOVE *This unusual shell is found only at Plettenberg Bay, renowned for the great variety of shells washed up on its beaches.*

BELOW (LEFT) *Sea stars move slowly across an algae-encrusted rock in shallow water on the Western Cape coast.*

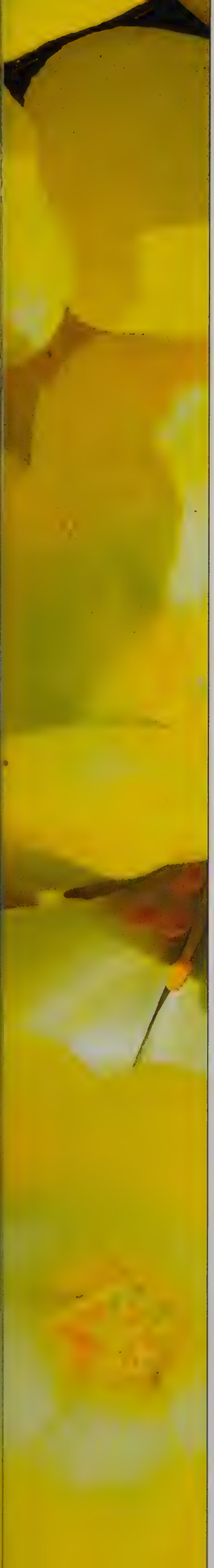
BELOW (RIGHT) *An exceptionally attractive sea anemone extends its white-tipped tentacles to attract prey.*



ABOVE *A sea urchin, whose spines can inflict painful wounds on anyone who steps on them, shares a tidal pool in the Western Cape with an unusually bright starfish.*



LEFT *A forest of coral polyps wave gently in the currents sweeping across a coral reef in the tropical Indian Ocean off the northern shore of KwaZulu/Natal.*



4

FLORA

WITHIN THE BORDERS of South Africa is the greatest concentration and variety of flowers in the world. This floral heritage, discovered more than three centuries ago, continues to excite botanists and has given the world a host of well-known garden species, such as agapanthus, Barberton daisy and gladiolus.

The known number of plant species in the country currently stands at about 22,000, with new species still being found. Almost every province boasts a wide range of plant life, from giant trees to many types of orchids. The huge diversity of species in the Western Cape – nearly 9000 – is such that the province has been declared one of the world's six "floral kingdoms". Cape Town's Table Mountain alone has some 1500 indigenous species, more than the number in the whole of Britain. A region which may hold a similar profusion of plant life was recently identified in the sub-tropical area in the north of the Kruger National Park.

FACING *Like gold in a pirate's treasure chest,* ***Grielum humifusum****, a member of the rose family, spreads its buttercup yellow flowers in the sunshine during Namaqualand's annual pageant of wild flowers.*

One of the greatest floral spectacles in the world, visited every year by growing numbers of South Africans and foreigners, occurs in the unlikeliest place – the usually bleak and dry Namaqualand Desert along the Northern Cape coast. Spring rains in Namaqualand sometimes fail and are sparse at best, but when they do come the flowers seize the opportunity. For several weeks the entire landscape, as far as the eye can see in every direction, is carpeted with a kaleidoscope of the colours of billions of wild flowers, their perfume filling the air.

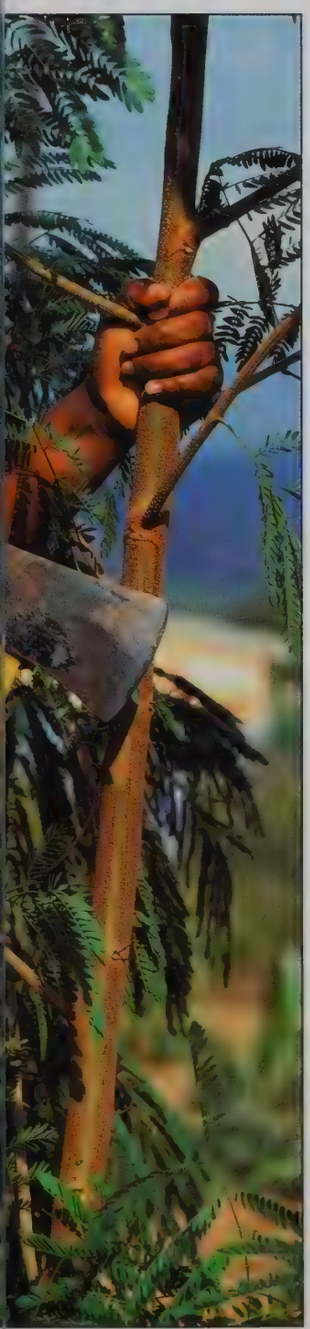
The Kirstenbosch Gardens, established in 1913 and lying on the south side of Table Mountain, are almost as famous as London's Kew Gardens for their floral wealth and for the contribution they have made to botany. They cover nearly 6 square kilometres (about 2.5 square miles) but only about six per cent of the area is cultivated; this part alone has 6000 species of indigenous plants, and the herbarium holds more than 250,000 species.

Other, smaller botanical gardens are scattered around the country, each focusing mainly on local plant life. The one at Nelspruit in Mpumalanga is second only to Kirstenbosch, with a wonderful array of sub-tropical and tropical trees, orchids, shrubs, creepers and other greenery.

In the far north of South Africa the landscape is dominated by baobabs, some of them possibly 4000 years old. In the far south the yellowwoods, many of them 1000 years old, tower above humid jungle festooned with creepers. Between these extremes is an almost infinite variety of plant life, from armies of aloes and the curious quiver trees to brilliant bauhinnias, succulent plants in many shapes and sizes, and the hallmark of Africa, the familiar thorn trees.

ABOVE AND RIGHT *Seedlings of the Australian "wonder tree" have been imported in an attempt to prevent indigenous trees from being used by rural dwellers for firewood. The tree grows so fast it is said that a backyard patch of 50 to 60 trees can keep a family adequately supplied with firewood and livestock fodder.*

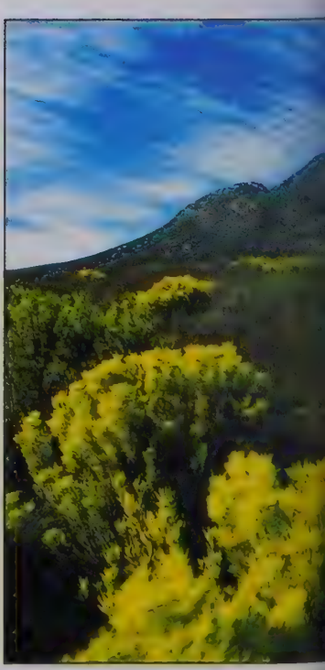
LEFT AND BELOW *The long-stalked* ***Aloe ferox*** *is a substitute for sweets for many rural African children, who suck the nectar from its red blossoms. Common in the Western Cape, it is one source of a medicinal gel widely used in cosmetics and is an important winter food for sunbirds.*



LEFT *These many-petalled flowers of the asteracea family grow in the Northern Cape, adding colour to the arid landscape.*

BELOW *The yellow leaves and flowers of the* ***Leucadendron*** *shrub, a member of the protea family, sway in the wind blowing across the Swartberg in the Western Cape.*

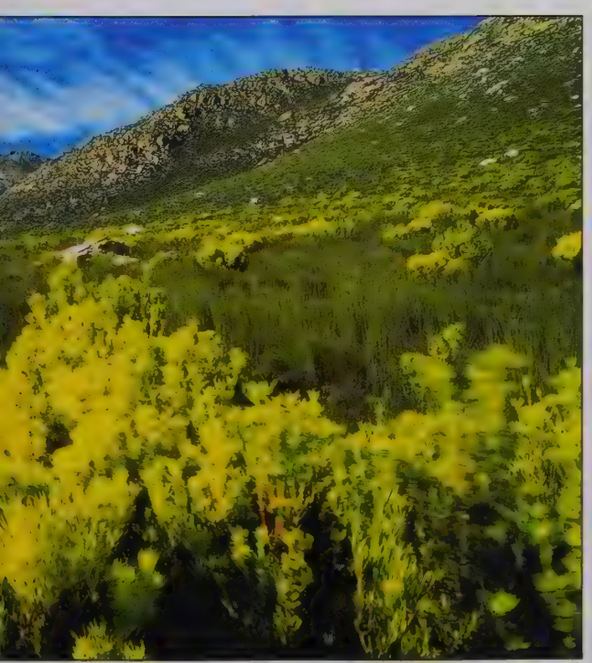
RIGHT *The stubby "leaves" of the window plant succulent,* ***Fenestraris aurantiaca****, are resistant to desert heat and translucent at the tips to gather light for growth. Here, buds are emerging between the "windows".*



RIGHT *A dazzling show of several kinds of proteas is displayed at a Cape flower market. The yellow and red blooms in the foreground are the popular pincushion variety.*

BELOW *The huge baobab trees in the northern region of South Africa produce incongruously small white blossoms. The fruit, seeds and leaves of baobabs are eaten by man and animals, the bark is eaten by elephants.*

RIGHT *A small frog makes itself at home on a tree fuchsia,* ***Scotia brachypetala****, found in eastern areas. It is called the weeping boer-bean because it drips nectar.*



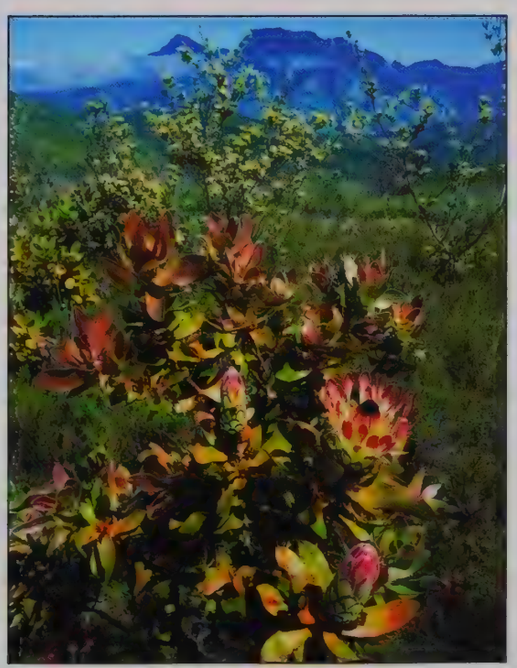
RIGHT *Freshwater mangrove seedlings thrust up from the water on the inland shore of Lake St Lucia in KwaZulu/Natal. They form an important habitat for many kinds of animals and insects.*

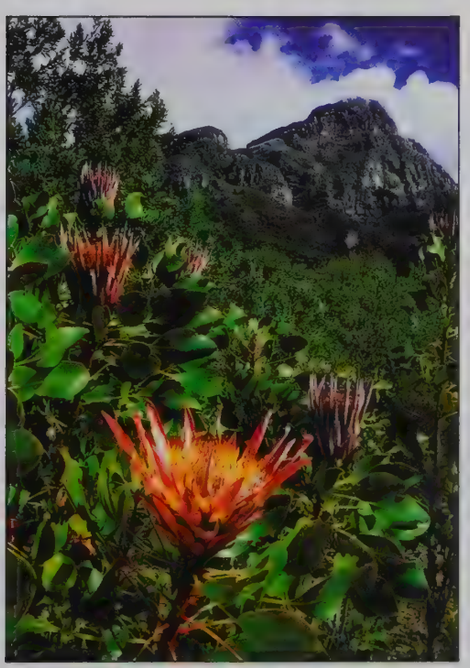
ABOVE *The barren, sun-blasted, rocky moonscape of the Richtersveld in the Northern Cape comes alive in spring when it is carpeted with mesembryanthemum flowers.*

LEFT *Among the thousands of flower species in the Western Cape "floral kingdom" is the mimetes,* ***Mimetes cucullatus****.*

RIGHT *In the Kirstenbosch Gardens on the Cape Peninsula is a garden of cycads, "living fossils" virtually unchanged since the age of the dinosaurs. There are many kinds of cycads in South Africa, some extremely rare and valuable.*

ABOVE *Autumn cosmos flowers sway in the breeze near Johannesburg. Cosmos was brought into South Africa in bales of fodder imported from Australia and South America for British horses in the Anglo-Boer War.*





LEFT *The king protea,* ***Protea cynaroides****, is one of the largest protea species. Here, king proteas grow in the Kirstenbosch Gardens, with Devil's Peak in the background.*

FAR LEFT *Made famous by a hit song in the 1950s, the sugarbush,* ***Protea repens****, is one of South Africa's most common proteas.*

RIGHT *The lovely Outeniqua heather,* ***Erica versicolor****, grows in the Western Cape's prolific "floral kingdom", where throughout the year flowers of one kind or another are in bloom.*

BELOW *These distinctive pincushion proteas,* ***Leucospermum cordifolius****, grow in the reserve on the Helderberg, near the town of Somerset West in the Western Cape.*

LEFT *Impala lilies on their fat grey stems are a striking feature of the Lowveld in Mpumalanga and the Northern province, especially in dry periods when the land is otherwise bare.*

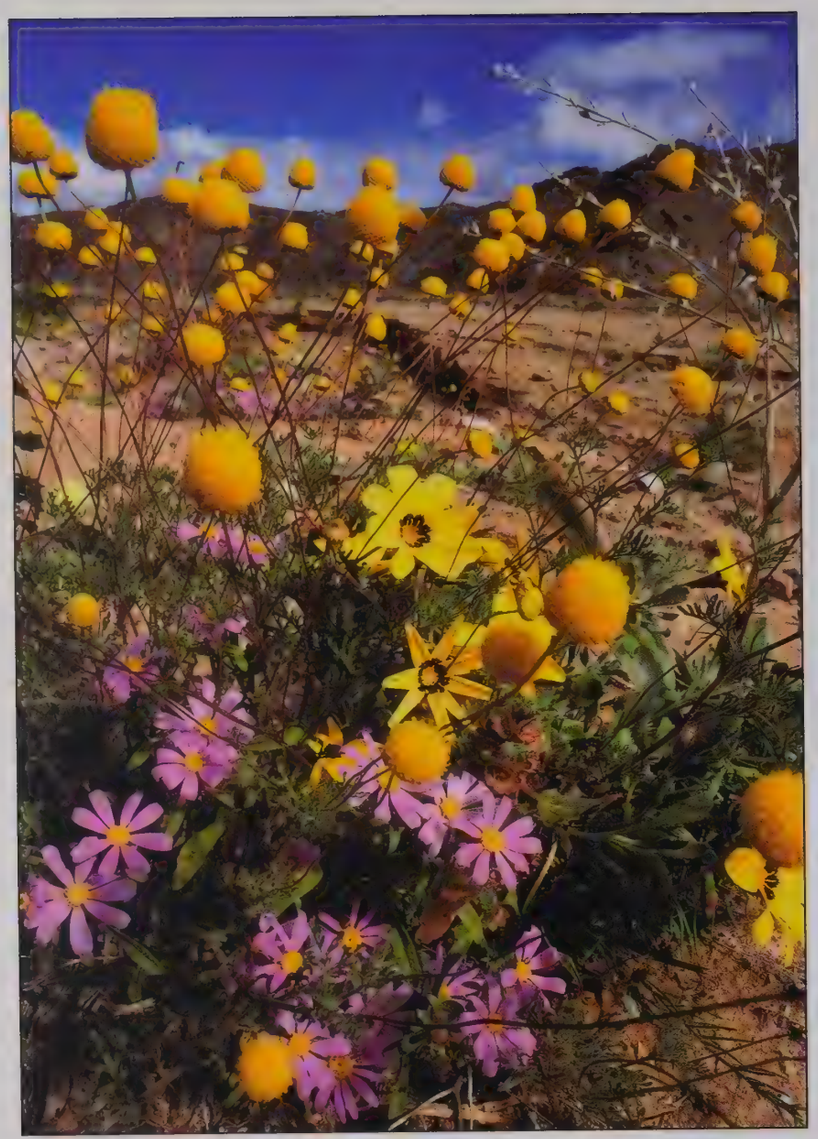
LEFT *A typical Western Cape scene – cultivated roses and lawns surround an old Cape Dutch home beneath the Helderberg in the heart of South Africa's wine-making region.*

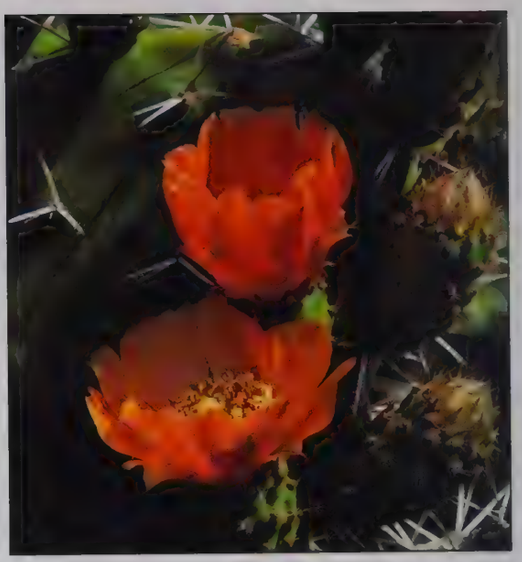
LEFT *Blue wild flowers and green lichen grow in the depths of the Blyde River canyon in Mpumalanga. The gorge, third largest in the world, hosts a wide range of plants, from tropical to temperate species.*

BELOW *The silver tree,* ***Leucadendron argenteum****, a striking member of the protea family, is unique to the Western Cape.*

ABOVE *A spring feast of flowers belonging to the drosanthemum family glows in the sunlight.*

LEFT *The umbrella thorn,* ***Acacia tortilis****, seen here in the Mkuzi game reserve in KwaZulu/Natal, is one of Africa's best-known trees and an important provider of shade for man and animal.*





LEFT *After sparse rains, a cluster of several kinds of spring flowers enlivens the usually barren landscape of the Richtersveld in the Northern Cape.*

ABOVE *The prickly pear cactus has long thorns to deter animals from eating its attractive flowers. The only cactus in South Africa, it was imported many years ago as a cattle feed and has spread widely.*

BELOW *Some streets in Phalaborwa, a copper and phosphate mining town in the hot Northern province, are lined with lawns and tall non-indigenous palms.*

RIGHT *The autumn leaves of plane trees create a russet carpet in the KwuZulu/ Natal Midlands. These trees are grown in many cities for shade.*

RIGHT *Morning dew turns a succulent plant in the Mountain Zebra National Park into a sparkling piece of jewellery.*

LEFT *The Cape sugarbird lives mainly on the nectar of the king protea and other members of the protea family in the Western Cape.*

BELOW *Wild flowers and blue sky turn the usually arid Namaqualand plains and hills into a paintbox of colour.*

RIGHT *The shrub euphorbia in the northern Kruger National Park is one of the many euphorbia species found throughout South Africa. Its sticky white sap is toxic.*

LEFT *The graceful arum lily,* ***Zantedeschia aethiopica****, is quite a common flower in South Africa, thriving in moist ground near rivers and lakes and often grown in gardens.*

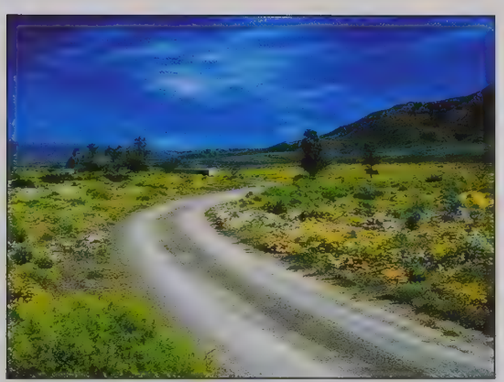
RIGHT *The ocean of small yellow flowers in the Kalahari hides the sharp, three-pointed spikes of the appropriately named devil's thorn,* ***Tribulus terristris****.*

ABOVE *Fungi of many shapes, sizes and colours grow from dead and living wood in the Tsitsikamma and other forests.*

LEFT *The big, bell-shaped crinum lily,* ***Crinum macowani****, is one of the best-loved flowers in South Africa and grows in the warmer eastern regions.*

RIGHT *Dew-speckled flowers of the mesembryanthemum family prepare to open their petals to the sun in Namaqualand.*

RIGHT *The road through Namaqualand passes a remote sheep-watering station where wild flowers blossom for a brief period during the spring.*



ABOVE *Grass seeds might lie dormant for many waterless years in the Kalahari Desert until, with the onset of spring rains, they burst into life to spread seed for the next rains.*

BELOW *More than 140 species of aloe grow in South Africa, in all regions. Some are confined to particular valleys, often covering the slopes like armies marching across the veld.*

5

Parks & Reserves

All of South Africa's 16 national parks and most of the 70 or so provincial parks and reserves were created to conserve particular segments of the natural environment – a specific assemblage of wildlife, a particular ecology, certain types of animal or plants – and to give people the opportunity to enjoy the marvels of nature and learn about the need for conservation.

The renowned Kruger National Park was established to prevent the extinction of a cross-section of the exceptionally abundant and diverse animal and plant life in South Africa's Lowveld. One of the world's first national parks, created in 1898 and proclaimed in 1926, it is also one of the finest, not only for wildlife but also for the excellent amenities it offers to the nearly one million visitors a year.

Less well known but in fact larger and more dramatic is the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, extraordinary because it is a cross-border venture between South Africa and neighbouring Botswana. It teems with the animals, birds, reptiles

Facing *The convoluted tangle of trunk, branches and twigs of a baobab tree, like this one in the Kruger National Park, is an environment of its own, providing food and shelter to a variety of resident creatures as well as to passing animals.*

and insects peculiar to the great Kalahari Desert against a spectacular backdrop of ancient, bright red dunes and blistering white plains.

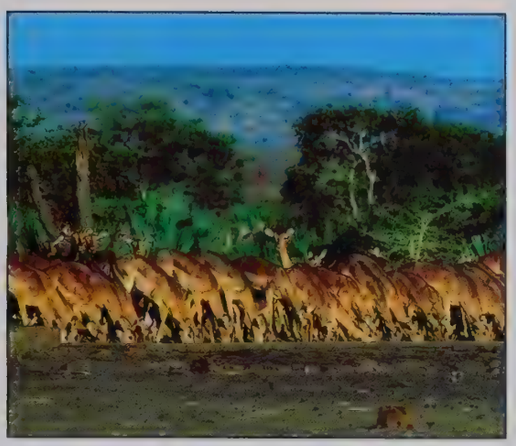
Addo/Zuurberg is in the Eastern Cape. The Addo section shelters black and white rhino and the last few hundred of the elephants that once roamed in their thousands in this area. The Zuurberg part preserves indigenous mountain vegetation such as the cushion bush and a cycad species found nowhere else in the country.

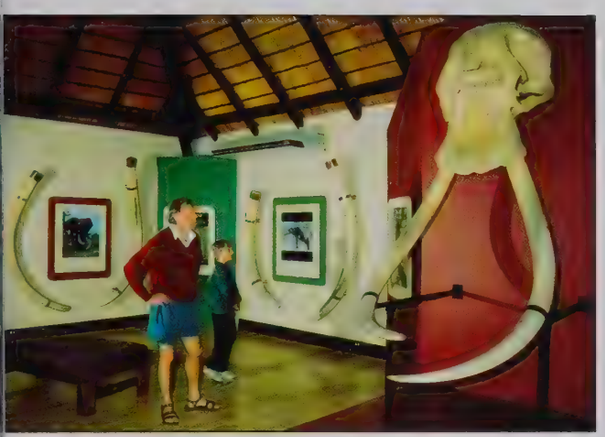
The Karoo National Park in the Western Cape conserves the delightful array of animal and plant life indigenous to a seemingly dreary landscape that travellers tend to speed through. The Marakele National Park in the North West province was created to protect the ecology of the great Waterberg plateau where the writer and philosopher Eugene Marais found his inspiration.

Parks in KwaZulu/Natal and the Eastern and Western

ABOVE *Sundowner time around the fire in Kruger's Bateleur camp gives visitors the chance to meet each other and exchange stories about the day's events.*

BELOW *Kruger staff pamper a baby black rhino abandoned by its mother when it got stuck in mud. When raised by people, such young animals cannot be returned to the wild and have to go to zoos.*





Cape extend out to sea to protect coral, turtles, fish, otters and other ocean and coastal life. In contrast, the Richtersveld in the Northern Cape – sun-blasted, oven-hot and mostly empty – extends over an utterly entrancing landscape of rock and naked mountains. The Golden Gate National Park in the Free State protects spectacular sandstone bluffs in high mountain terrain favoured by unusual buck and birds.

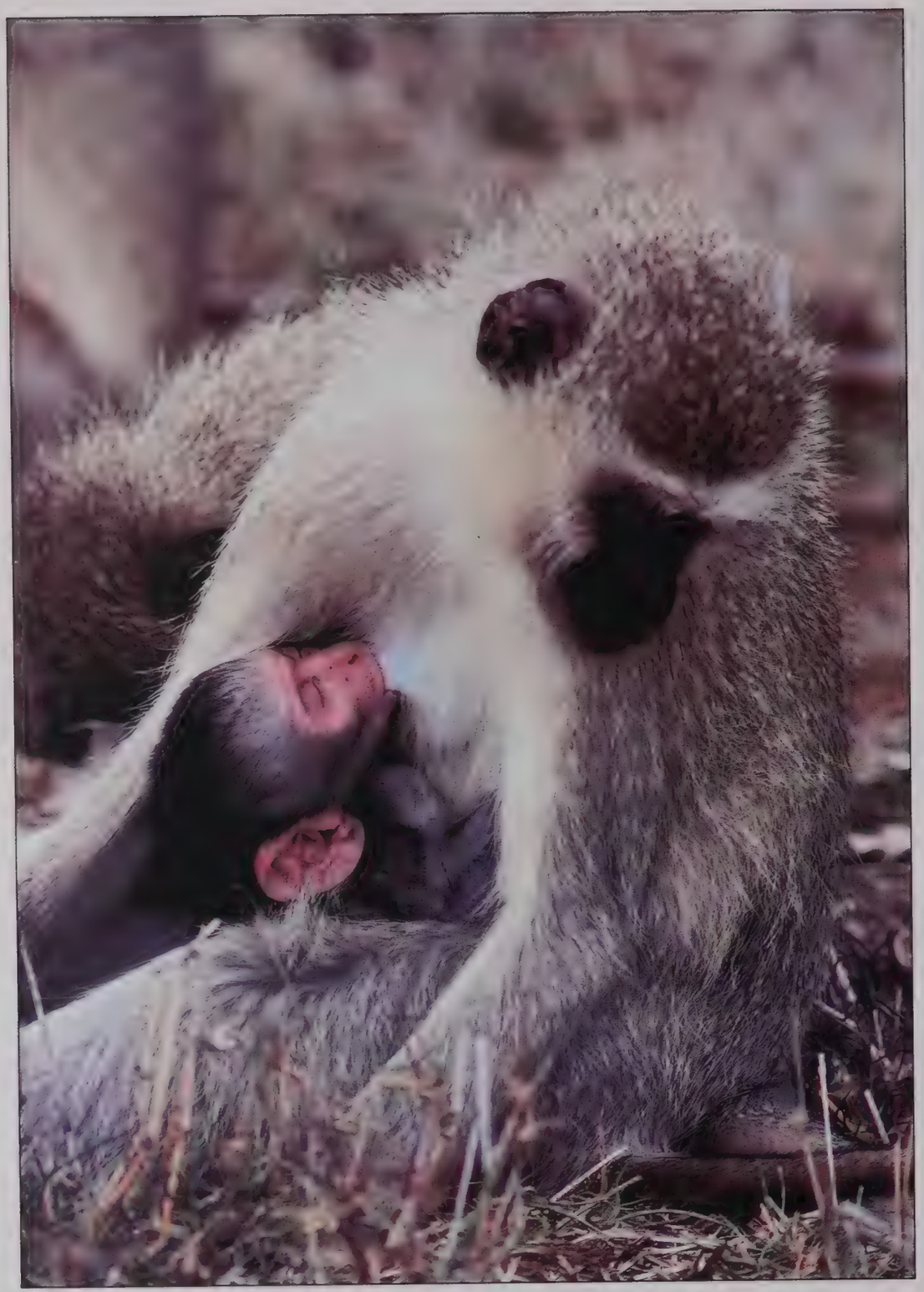
Commerce, industry and individuals have enthusiastically entered the conservation game. A game reserve company is pioneering the use of resource reserves to benefit local communities. Two small reserves in Mpumalanga have been created by forestry companies to save the endangered blue swallow, of which fewer than a dozen nesting pairs remain. There are scores of private reserves and game farms.

South Africa is an acknowledged leader in wildlife management and research and provides conservation advice and assistance to many African countries.

ABOVE (TOP) *Impala, here all lined up to drink, are the commonest buck in Kruger, numbering about 200,000 and found throughout the park. They are the prime food of many predators.*

ABOVE *The elephant hall at Letaba camp commemorates some of Kruger's giant tuskers, among them the "Magnificent Seven". Because they are protected, many Kruger elephants have unusually large tusks.*

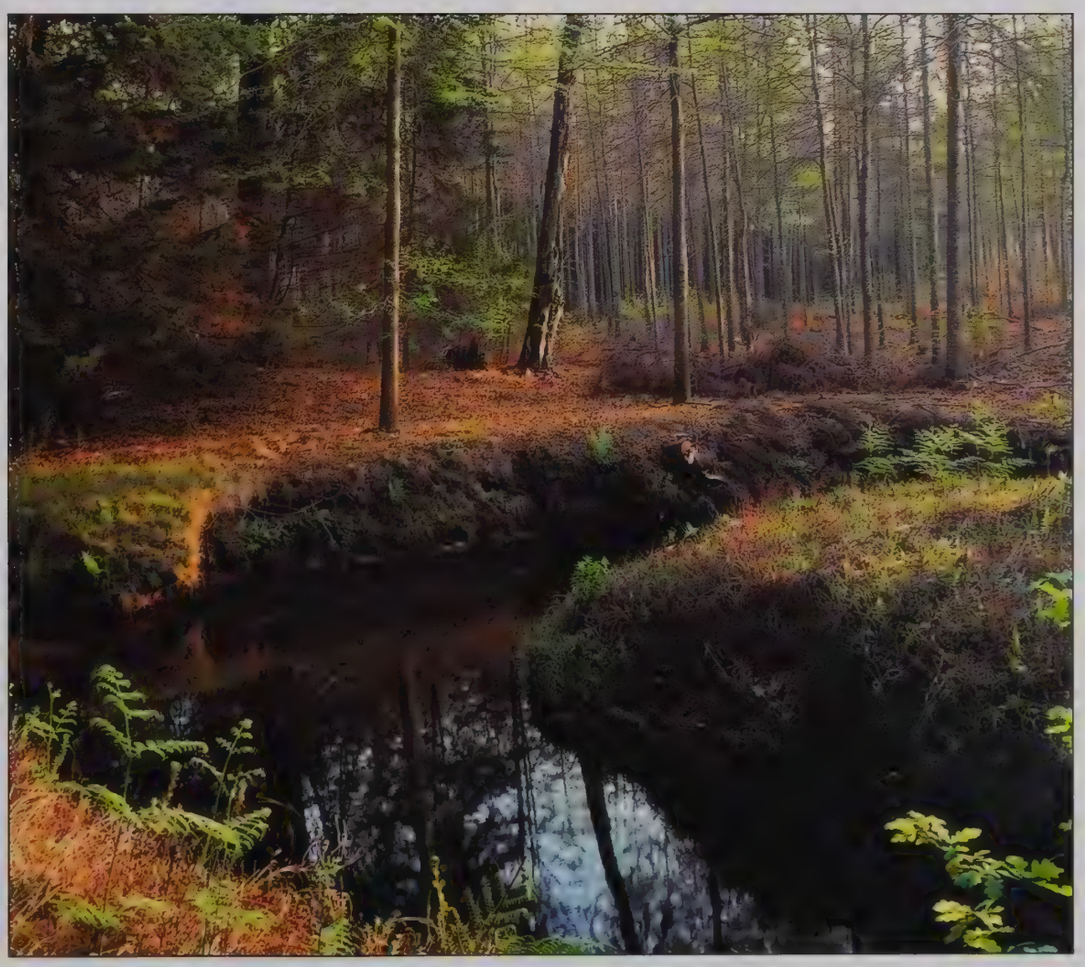
LEFT *Although bitter, the fruit growing on the bark of the knobbly fig tree found in the hot northern parts of the Kruger National Park is eaten by animals and birds. Elephants eat the leaves.*



LEFT *Vervet monkeys, impudent and inquisitive animals, occur throughout sub-tropical South Africa. They live in strongly bonded troops and take meticulous care of their infants.*

BELOW (LEFT) *Night drives into the wild in Kruger have become extremely popular. By giving visitors the chance to see nocturnal animals, they have opened up a new dimension in game viewing.*

LEFT *One of the animals seen only at night is the beautifully patterned African civet cat, about the size of a fox terrier. It eats insects, fruits and small animals.*



ABOVE *Six classic sets of heavy curved horns are displayed by these buffalo resting in the Sabi Sand private reserve, where visitors stay in luxurious lodges.*

LEFT *Though attractive in the sunset, the pin oaks are alien intruders in the Woodbush State Forest reserve near Tzaneen in the Northern province.*

ABOVE *A family of fleet-footed cheetah scans the landscape for prey. Cheetah exist only in reserves where there is enough space to accommodate their large hunting territories.*

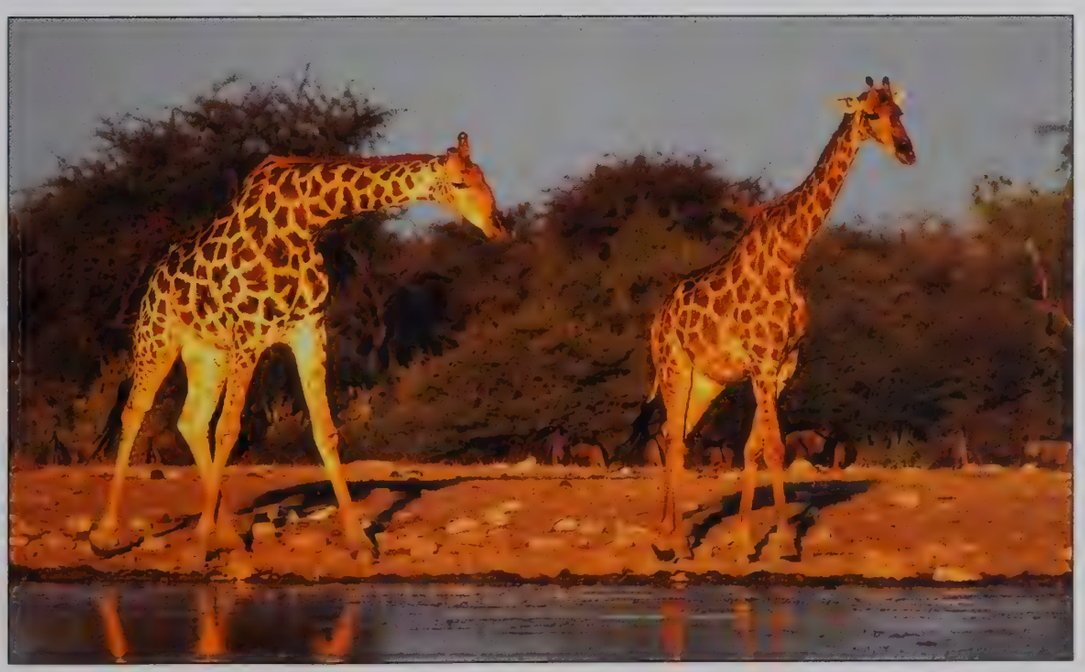
LEFT *A young spotted hyaena rests near its "toy", the shell of a long-dead tortoise. Even at this young age its jaws have bone-crushing strength.*

RIGHT *Slanting evening sunlight illuminates waterbuck in open bushveld. Thick-furred and rather rank smelling, they are usually seen grazing nearer to water.*

FACING (LEFT) *Visitors to the Mala Mala private reserve view game from Land Rovers with specially built tiers of seats. Wild animals are unconcerned as long as people stay on the vehicles but the rangers are armed just in case.*

RIGHT *On early morning game-watching drives breakfast is a hearty meal around an open fire in the heart of the wild. Except in mid-winter, the day is already warm by this time.*

ABOVE *The lounge in Mala Mala's sumptuous lodge is in traditional South African style, designed for comfort in hot weather.*



LEFT *A familiar African image – giraffe admire their own reflections in a waterhole mirror before they bend down to drink, an awkward process which involves spreading their forelegs wide.*

ABOVE *The hollows in the head of this solitary bull in the Phinda resource reserve, KwaZulu/Natal, indicate that he is getting on in years. Elephants' average life-span is slightly less than man's.*

RIGHT *A big heavy maned lion in the Phinda reserve cuddles up to a nubile young lioness, her juvenile spots still faintly visible.*

ABOVE *The majestic Drakensberg Amphitheatre lies within the Royal Natal National Park, where tourist accommodation includes a hotel, chalets and campsites.*

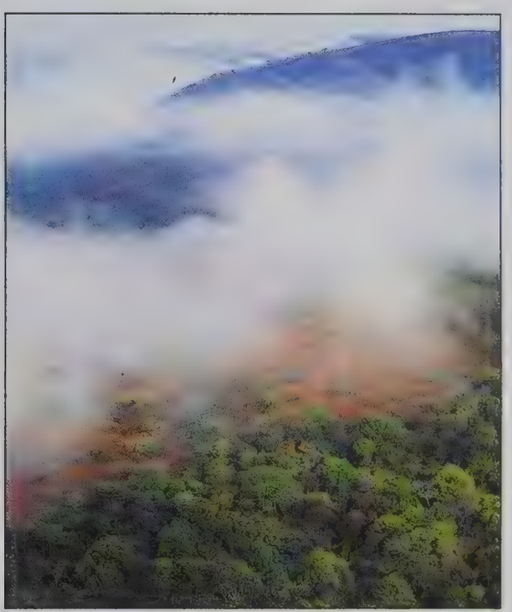
LEFT *South African game experts lead the world in the capture and translocation of wild animals. This tranquillized white rhino in the Umfolozi reserve, KwaZulu/Natal, is being crated for transport.*

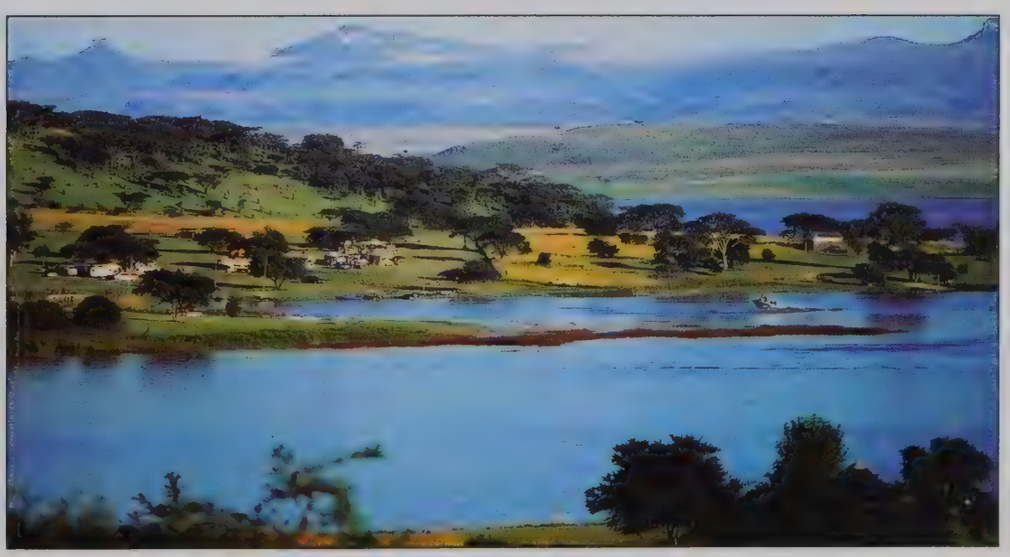
ABOVE *Giraffe, like most animals in the Hluhluwe reserve, KwaZulu/Natal, are so accustomed to vehicles that they generally ignore them. They have right of way anyway.*

LEFT *After eating their fill, cheetah laze in the sun in a KwaZulu/Natal park. They have to feed quickly when they have killed, or hyaenas might seize their prey.*

RIGHT *Burchell's zebra drinking in the Umfolozi reserve show their finely drawn face markings. The markings of no two zebra are exactly alike.*

BELOW *The Ntshondwe camp in the Itala reserve in northern KwaZulu/Natal has become one of the province's most popular camps, with its waterhole and hides and abundant wildlife.*

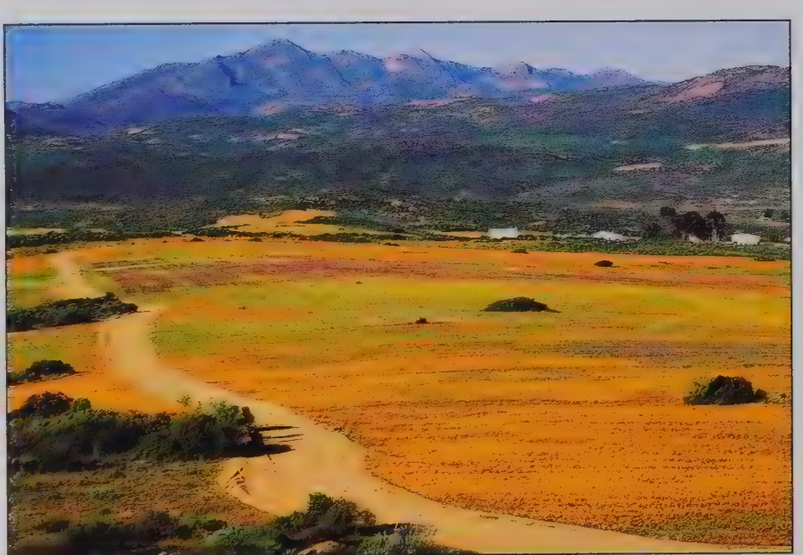




ABOVE *Clouds of morning mist drift over the forest and grassland of the Hluhluwe reserve before the rising sun melts them away.*

LEFT *In the Spioenkop nature reserve in KwaZulu/Natal, the Tugela River has been dammed to form a lake. Rhino and a variety of buck live in the game park.*

ABOVE *Sparring young gemsbuck kick up dust in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, Northern Cape, while their longer-horned elders appear to egg them on.*



LEFT *The small Skilpad wild flower reserve in the far north of the Northern Cape desert is named after the tortoises living there. All South African tortoises are protected by law.*

LEFT *Sunsets in the Kalahari produce dramatic streaks of colour across skies of startling clarity, displaying a profusion of stars when there is no moon.*

ABOVE *The kokerboom (or quiver tree) is one of the few plants that grow to a significant size in the dry Northern Cape. The San people used the bark to make quivers for their arrows.*

ABOVE *A herd of Africa's largest antelope, the massive eland, thunders across the red sands of the Kalahari. Eland are easily domesticated and attempts have been made to farm them.*

LEFT *The Orange River flowing in full flood through the bleak, barren gorge, over 100 m (330 ft) deep, in the Augrabies National Park is an awesome spectacle.*

LEFT *The thin grasses and spare scrub of the Western Cape's Karoo National Park sustain a surprisingly large variety of wildlife.*

FACING *They are flat and apparently desolate, but the great salt marshes of the West Coast National Park are full of hardy plants and small creatures which support many thousands of water and other birds.*

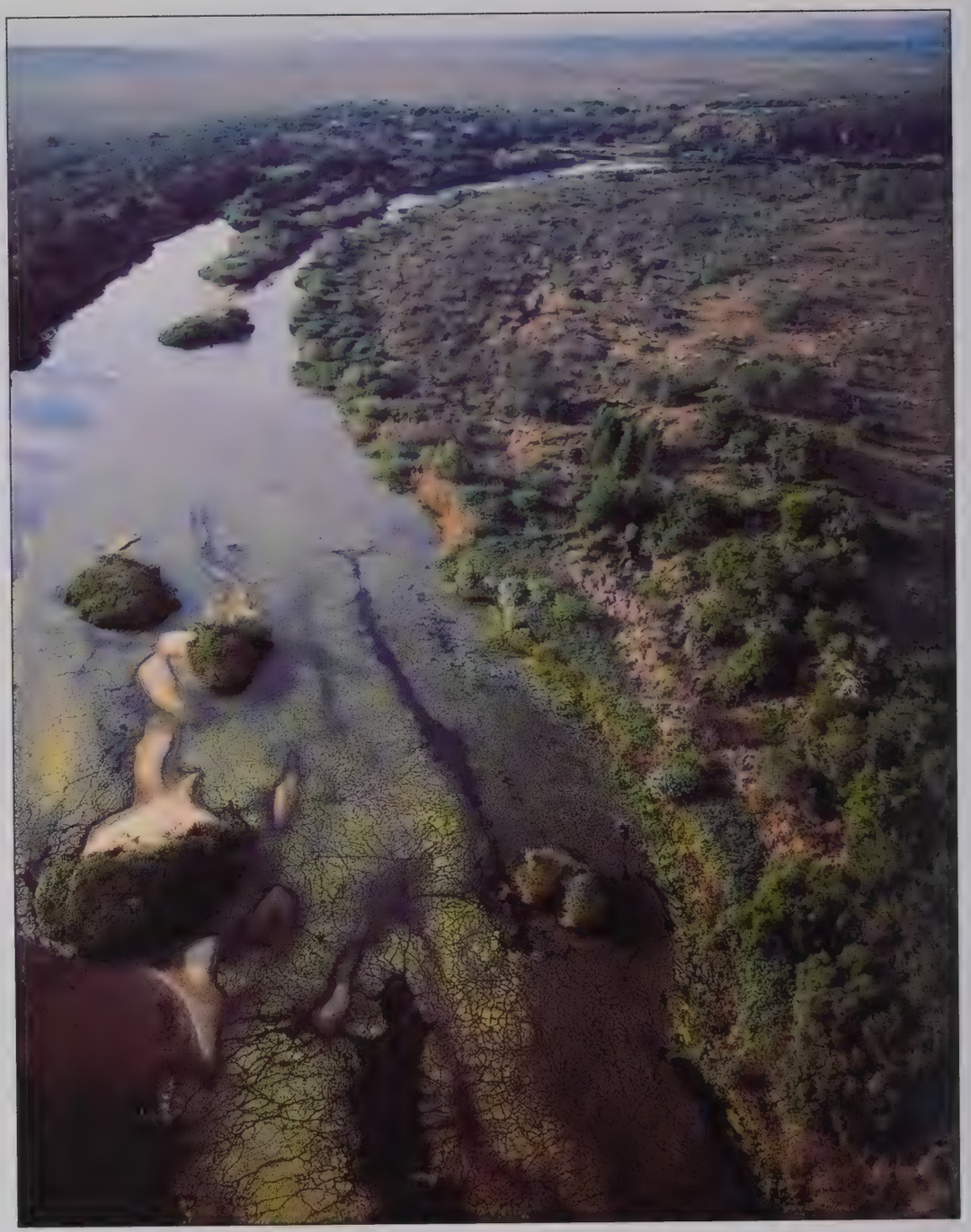
BELOW *The changing light and sky during the day over the Karoo, a largely featureless landscape save for the flat-topped mountains, create scenes of breathtaking beauty.*

LEFT *The huge Langebaan lagoon in the West Coast National Park is part of Saldanha Bay, a favourite venue for yachtsmen and women.*

ABOVE *A large colony of South African or "jackass" penguins lives in safety on Jutten Island, one of four islands in the West Coast National Park.*

RIGHT *The desolate Postberg section of the West Coast National Park, with its rocks sculpted into strange shapes by wind and water, comes alive in spring when the wild flowers bloom.*

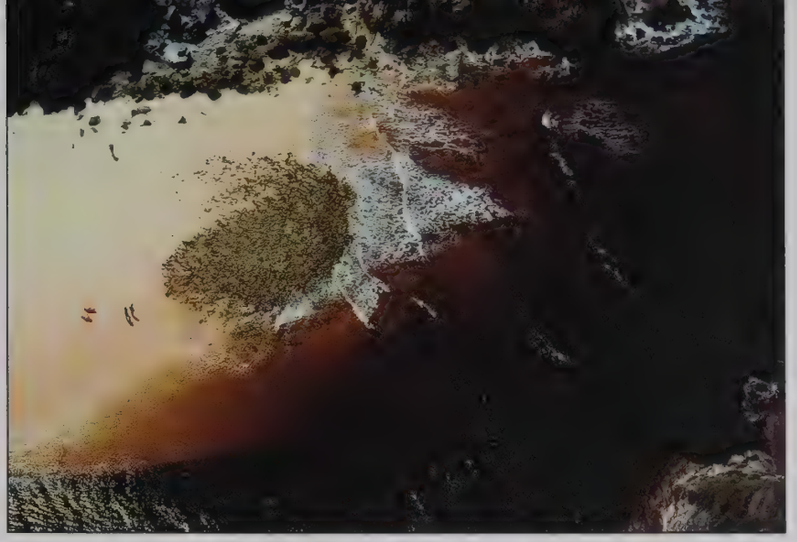
RIGHT *The Bontebok National Park was created along the Breede ("Broad") River in the Western Cape to save the bontebok from extinction when there were only 22 of these animals left. They are now thriving in several provinces.*



BELOW (LEFT) *Ostrich breeding at Oudtshoorn has saved these birds from danger. One of the attractions for visitors is a ride on an ostrich, which is nearly as fast as a horse.*

BELOW (RIGHT) *Autumn leaves decorate the forest floor in the Wilderness National Park on the Garden Route.*

RIGHT *Beautiful Sandy Beach is one of many scenic pleasures on the Otter Trail, which extends 41 km (25 miles) along the Garden Route coastline.*



BELOW *At the western end of the Otter Trail is Nature's Valley, a long white beach and lagoon on the coast of the Tsitsikamma National Park in the Western Cape.*

LEFT *The elephants in the Addo National Park near Port Elizabeth are descended from a few survivors of great herds that roamed the Eastern Cape before hunters moved in. Now they number several hundred.*

6

Cities & Towns

South Africa has a handful of major cities, over 20 smaller cities and hundreds of towns, villages, hamlets and outposts, some little more than a trading store and a post office. The towns generally reflect their environments; some still have the appearance of wild, frontier settlements, others are old and quaint, a number of them gaining vigorous new life as the country's demography alters. The cities differ sharply in character, depending upon location, economic activity and predominant culture.

The largest by far is not one city but a conglomeration of cities crowding the smallest province, Gauteng. At its core is Johannesburg, which began as one of the many gold rush camps spawned by the Witwatersrand ("White Waters Ridge") gold strikes in 1885–86. Urban growth, especially recently, has been so rapid that Johannesburg, Pretoria 50 km (31 miles) north, the new Midrand between them, Vereeniging to the south, Randburg, Soweto and the other municipalities are now one huge metropolis accommodating most of Gauteng's nearly 8 million people.

Scarred by mine workings, ringed by monotonous "townships", blotched with squatter camps and veined with freeways, it is an unlovely metropolis. But it has many beautiful suburbs, an extraordinary dynamism, and a vigorous arts and entertainment

Facing *Hillbrow, one of the most densely populated square miles in the world, is a forest of apartment blocks on top of a hill in central Johannesburg. The tall building on the right is a cylindrical apartment block; in the middle is a broadcasting tower*

culture. The economic heart of the country, it smells of money and is never boring.

By far the loveliest city is Cape Town, the legislative capital lying in the lap of Table Mountain. Almost 350 years old, it has spread around the Cape Peninsula to False Bay in the east and the Atlantic Ocean in the west, clinging between sea and cliffs. Its 800,000 people of many races enjoy a leisurely way of life amid historic and scenic beauty. The Suez Canal has taken away most of the ocean traffic that once called in here but the city remains a fairly active port and is the headquarters for many financial institutions and industries.

Durban is South Africa's vacation capital. With its Florida-style skyscraper beachfront and big, busy harbour, it is almost as lively as Johannesburg but enjoys a euphoria generated by a steamy climate, golden beaches and a stunningly beautiful hinterland. History has given it an English personality, spiced with the cultures of India and enlivened by the Zulu people.

Pretoria, Afrikaans in personality and once a dreary administrative capital, has abruptly emerged from its bureaucratic cocoon as a vivacious, cosmopolitan city thanks to a huge injection of diplomats, money and activity since South Africa rejoined the international community. Always an architectural showcase, it is booming with new construction.

Bloemfontein is South Africa's judicial capital and carries on as placidly as ever on the distant Free State plains. Kimberley, once the hectic focus of great diamond wealth, sleeps prettily

ABOVE *Johannesburgers on their way to work stroll through the small Joubert Park, below Hillbrow, in the central business district.*

BELOW *The flea market at Bruma Lake, an artificial waterfront in Randburg, Johannesburg, attracts swarms of traders and customers every Saturday.*

LEFT *The only means of transport for visitors to Gold Reef City, a reconstruction of an old mining town on the outskirts of Johannesburg, are horse-drawn carriages.*

under the Northern Cape sun, dreaming of the past. East London was built to serve the 1820 settlers and now serves the Eastern Cape's large black population. Port Elizabeth is the home of South Africa's automobile industry.

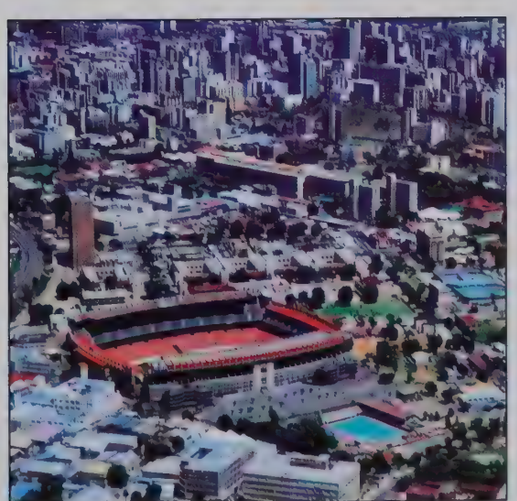
With the change from four provinces to nine, new provincial capitals have emerged. Some, such as Mpumalanga's Nelspruit, North West's Mmabatho and Eastern Cape's Bisho, are not yet cities. But they are likely to grow fast. The drift of people from rural to urban centres is steady in the new South Africa.

ABOVE *The home of soccer, South Africa's most popular sport, is the huge FNB sports stadium in Johannesburg.*

RIGHT *The new Centurion Park cricket ground near Pretoria is a major venue for provincial and international matches.*

BELOW *The new Ellis Park rugby stadium in Johannesburg is flanked by Hillbrow on the right and the downtown business area on the left.*

LEFT *This monument in Johannesburg was erected to honour the black miners who man the rockface drills deep underground.*



RIGHT *Southgate shopping centre is one of many malls, each containing scores of shops, scattered all over Johannesburg's suburbs.*

RIGHT *The clean, elegant lines of the skyscrapers in central Pretoria are silhouetted by the setting sun. In the foreground are the gardens of the Union Buildings.*

BELOW *Since the birth of the new South Africa, airlines from all over the world now fly into Johannesburg's international airport, located on the high altitude plains east of the city.*

BELOW *Pretoria lies in a valley between two mountain ridges at the eastern end of the Magaliesberg range and can be very hot in summer.*

LEFT *The Palace of the Lost City in the wilds of the North West province is a multi-million rand architectural extravaganza of African and Eastern images, housing a hotel, casino and golf complex.*

LEFT *Durban's beach-front is a long parade of high-rise hotels, night-clubs, pubs, bistros, restaurants and other attractions for the visitors drawn by its warm climate when the rest of the country is gripped by winter.*

RIGHT *Street vendors are fast taking over the sidewalks in South Africa's cities and towns but their informal trade is a key part of the economy.*

FAR RIGHT *Sunday trading was barred in the old South Africa but is now permitted. Here, an Indian flower seller plies his trade in Durban.*

LEFT *Durban's colourful stalls sell everything from key rings to curry powders rated between "mild" and "atomic", and are as great an attraction for holiday-makers as the beaches and pubs.*

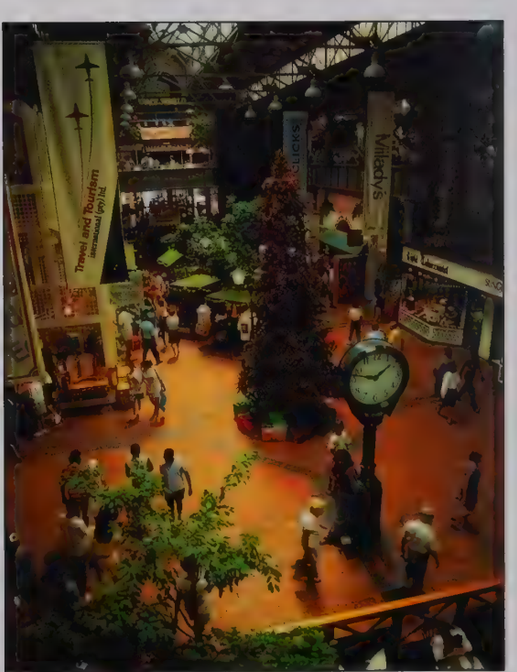
LEFT *The glitter of central Durban at night is mirrored by the waters of the yacht basin in the harbour, a haven for sailors from all over the world.*

BELOW *Pietermaritzburg's city hall reflects the pleasant Victorian character of this provincial capital, despite its Afrikaans name.*

RIGHT *The open-air market on the lawns in front of Durban's Maharani Hotel gives the beachfront a carnival atmosphere.*

BELOW *The Workshop in central Durban is an old railway workshop which has been cleverly converted into a big, bustling shopping mall.*

RIGHT *The public swimming pools on Durban's beachfront are a children's paradise but at the height of the holiday season they vanish beneath a sea of humanity.*



RIGHT *Vryburg is the centre of a large ranching and dairy farming region in the flat, dry plains of the North West province and boasts a modern town hall.*

ABOVE *The Lord Milner Hotel in the charming hamlet of Matjiesfontein, north of Cape Town, became a British regimental headquarters during the Anglo-Boer War and has been restored to its Victorian charm.*

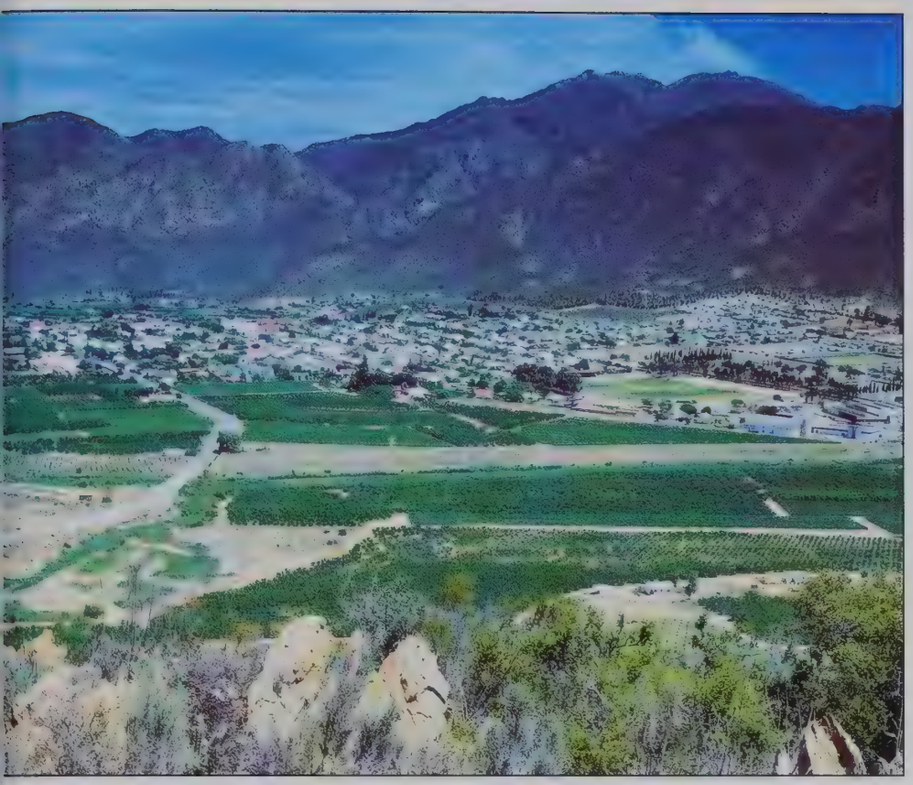
RIGHT *Putsonderwater ("well with no water"), a remote railway station in the arid Northern Cape, is typical of thousands of such outposts all over the country. There is an annual contest for the most beautifully kept one.*

LEFT *This view of Cape Town shows the urban development along the northern Cape Peninsula, with Hout Bay in the foreground, the sprawling eastern suburbs and Cape Flats on the upper right and Table Mountain on the upper left.*

RIGHT *No shot has ever been fired in anger from the ramparts of the 330-year-old, Dutch-built Cape Town Castle, the oldest building in South Africa.*

RIGHT *The Strand is a pretty resort town on False Bay favoured by pensioners and holidaymakers from inland. Beyond is Gordon's Bay, another holiday resort, and beyond that rise the Hottentots Holland Mountains.*

ABOVE *In the holiday season The Strand puts on firework displays along its beachfront and from the top of nearby apartment blocks. Its beach is very safe for children.*



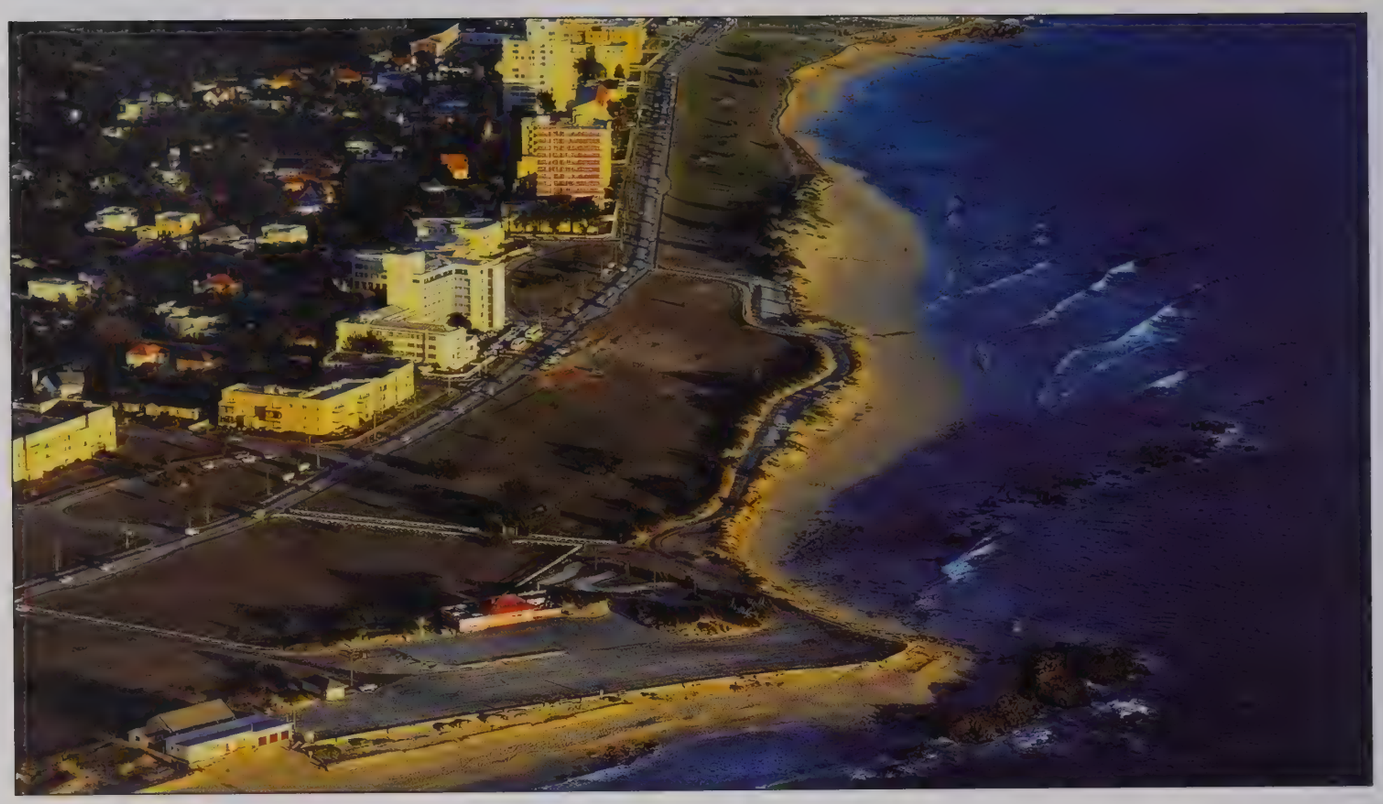
LEFT *The beautiful town of Montagu, Western Cape, is famed for its excellent wines, deciduous fruits, hot springs, magnificent views, indigenous flower garden and historical architecture.*

ABOVE *The Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, a multi-million rand redevelopment of Cape Town's old harbour, functions as a business and residential area as well as a major tourist attraction.*

RIGHT *In the heart of Cape Town is the cobbled Greenmarket Square, surrounded by beautiful old buildings and dominated by the grandeur of Table Mountain, here wearing its "tablecloth" of clouds.*

RIGHT *Jameson Hall is one of the many attractive buildings on the campus of the University of Cape Town, which lies on the mountain slope behind Devil's Peak.*

ABOVE *The War Memorial and the South African Museum stand in The Gardens in Cape Town, an area where, over three centuries ago, the Dutch grew vegetables to supply passing ships.*



ABOVE *Lawns and apartment blocks fringe the coastline of suburban Port Elizabeth, the historic city founded in 1820 when English settlers landed at Algoa Bay. It is South Africa's fifth largest port.*

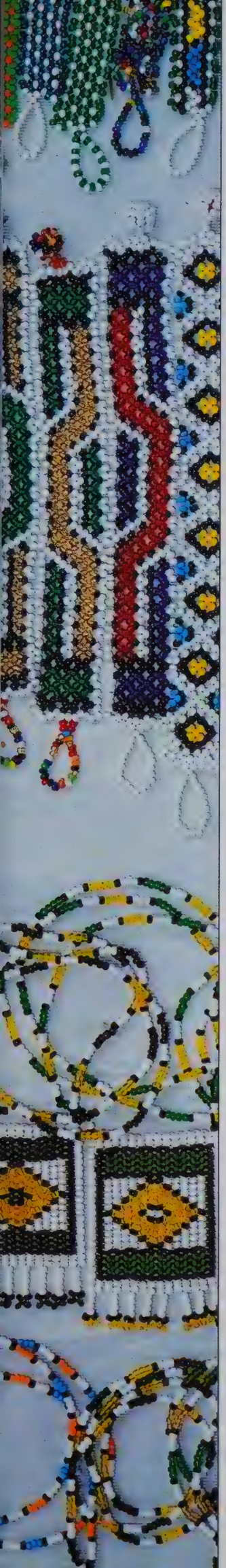
LEFT *The Holy Trinity church is one of many buildings of religious and historical importance in Port Elizabeth.*

RIGHT *Port Elizabeth's modern central business district rises above a breakwater made of a South African invention called "dolos" – interlocked six-armed concrete shapes.*

RIGHT *Grahamstown is an important cultural and educational centre, the venue for Africa's leading annual arts festival, and the site of Rhodes University, founded by Cecil John Rhodes.*

BELOW *In front of the picturesque town hall in East London, South Africa's only river port, is an equestrian statue built to commemorate residents killed in the Anglo-Boer War.*

LEFT *Port Alfred, lying between Port Elizabeth and East London, was established by the 1820 English settlers and is now a popular holiday resort, with many seaside and freshwater attractions.*



7

Arts & Crafts

THE EVOLUTION OF ART is perhaps nowhere seen more clearly than in Africa, the cradle of mankind. In South Africa, long exposed to the cultures of Europe and the East, modern conventional art in all its forms thrives side by side with the art of many African cultures. These traditions influence each other powerfully. The result is an outstanding pageant of works whose quality South Africans themselves have begun to appreciate only in recent decades. Now, at last, the artists are receiving the accolades they deserve and their works are being seen outside private collections and galleries, gracing the foyers and walls of business and government buildings and being exhibited and sold abroad.

It is commonplace to see the bold designs the Ndebele people paint on their houses and the Zulus weave into their beadwork now reproduced on anything from office blocks to buses to stationery. Works by leading artists such as Sidney Kumalo, Percy Konqobe and Meshak Raphalalani, whose sculptures in wood reflect both

FACING *Elaborate, traditional beadwork has more than just a decorative purpose. It plays an important part in ritual and social affairs, each colour having a meaning and the designs denoting a person's status and conveying messages, such as love letters.*

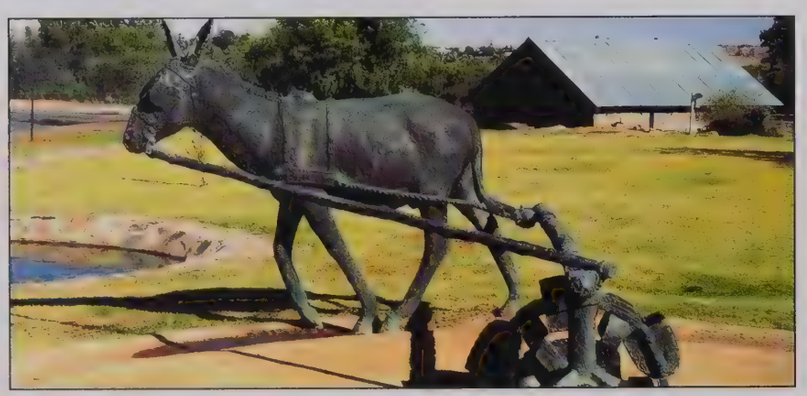
traditional and modern influences, are in great demand and fetch high prices.

Conventional art is of an exceptionally high standard and has won numerous awards abroad. Painters such as Irma Stern, Maude Sumner, Maggie Laubser and Cecil Skotnes have long been familiar to connoisseurs outside South Africa but many more are now emerging as major figures in the art world – John Meyer for his hauntingly realistic paintings, Harold Voigt for his dramatically textured semi-abstracts, Sias Bosch who produces unique flat ceramic paintings with six or more layers of colour glazed in, Marguerite Stephens whose giant tapestries are based on designs by various artists, and David Goldblatt for his essays in photography. People are rediscovering, too, old South African masters, including artists such as Oerder, Pierneef, Boonzaaier, Preller and Battiss.

This wealth of talent will undoubtedly grow and flourish because it is continuously enriched by new artists from African and Eastern cultures where art is part of everyday tasks such as

ABOVE *The Palace of the Lost City, an eclectic mix of art and architecture with a predominantly African theme, is the subject of some critical debate.*

BELOW *Using moulds, two workers make ornaments for gardens and homes. Many such industries are small backyard operations and are an important part of the national economy.*



ABOVE *The bronze statue outside the Kalahari Orange Museum in Upington, Northern Cape, honours the humble donkey for its essential role in pumping water from the Orange River to irrigated farms.*

LEFT *A beautifully beaded Zulu woman incises patterns on a clay pot before it is fired. Pottery patterns are highly specific and archaeologists use excavated potsherds to trace early African migration routes.*

weaving baskets, thatching huts, carving pipes and stools, making clay pots, and fashioning and decorating items for domestic and ritual use. In particular, it is now also being enriched by immigrants from Ghana, Nigeria, Zaire and Zimbabwe, countries renowned for their artistic traditions.

The arts and crafts of South Africa are displayed in public and commercial galleries in every city in the country and in many special museums.

ABOVE *This close-up of the tableau (facing page) in the Palace of the Lost City shows impala fleeing from bronze cheetahs.*

RIGHT *The Ndebele people, an offshoot of the Nguni clans who moved south and became the Zulu, have evolved strikingly coloured geometric designs for their walls and beadwork.*

RIGHT *Inside the Palace of the Lost City stands this huge statue of Shawu, one of the Kruger National Park's famous elephant bulls. Shawu was notable for his deformed, inward curving tusks.*

LEFT *Students copy rock paintings in the Cedarberg, Western Cape, an area rich in rock art. The paintings are assumed to be the work of the San people centuries ago, although today's San know nothing of this art form.*

BELOW *Three highly stylized rock paintings grace the wall of an overhang in the Gifberg ("Poison Mountains") in Namaqualand. The colours have faded over time.*

BELOW *A Zulu girl wearing a colourful bead necklace hides coyly behind a miniature war shield.*

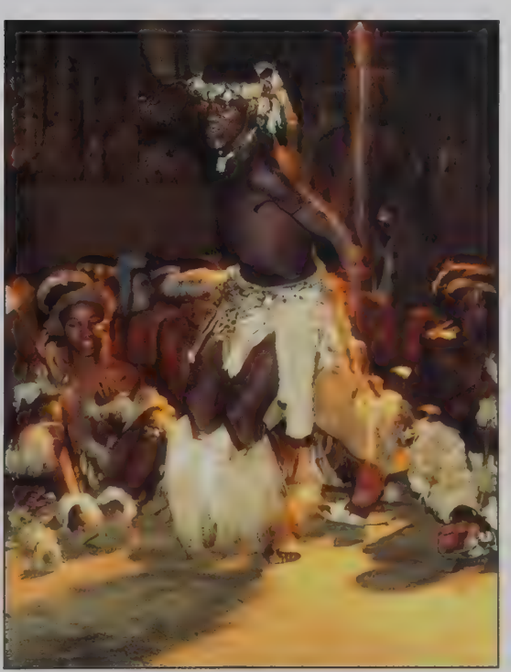
RIGHT *A beautiful polychrome painting in a cave near Maclear, Eastern Cape, where some of the best examples of rock art have been found. The painting probably represents a hunt.*

LEFT *A realistic San family, including the artist, has been sculpted from clay in a cave at Giant's Castle, KwaZulu/Natal, to illustrate their way of life.*

LEFT *War shields made from hard dried oxhide are sold to tourists and represent an important source of income.*

BELOW *Probably the most prized skill among African people long ago was that of making iron and fashioning spears. At Shakaland in KwaZulu/Natal a Zulu demonstrates how it is done.*

BELOW *Zulus in full regalia put on a dance performance at Shakaland, an exhibition centre for Zulu culture in KwaZulu/Natal.*



RIGHT *Historically, masks were rarely used by South African peoples. This fine collection displayed at a Johannesburg flea market comes from Central and West Africa.*

BELOW (CENTRE) *Curio sellers display their wood and clay wares on the roadside in the Mpumalanga Lowveld, a leading tourist region.*

BELOW *Clay pots like these at Richards Bay, KwaZulu/Natal, have many uses, from storing grain to making beer. Behind them are Zulu sleeping mats and narrow baskets for straining millet beer.*

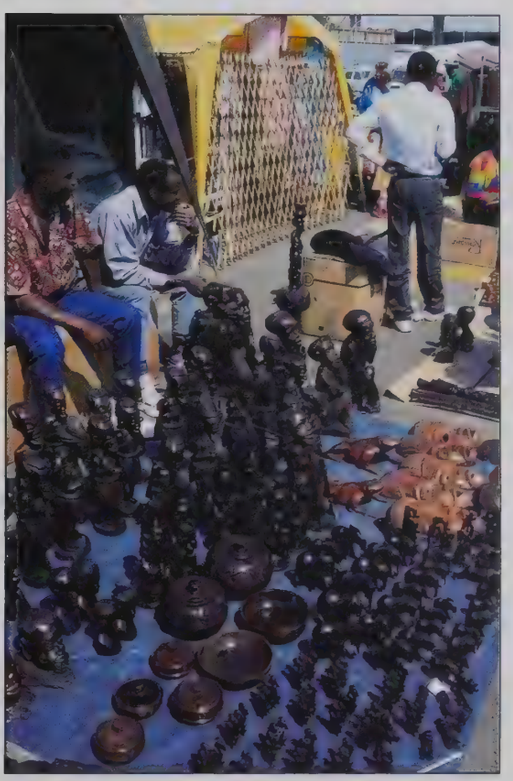
ABOVE *At the Dumazulu cultural village in Hluhluwe, a Zulu woman demonstrates the patience and skill needed to select and sew together beads with needle and thread.*

BELOW *Art and craft pavilions have been built in KwaZulu/Natal to help the local people sell their basket work. Zulus have mastered the art of making baskets that hold water.*

RIGHT *A young Zulu couple show off traditional beadwork and headbands. The headband worn by the girl is an* ***ujobe****, her necklace an* ***ujelasi*** *and the boy's headband an* ***umqhele****.*

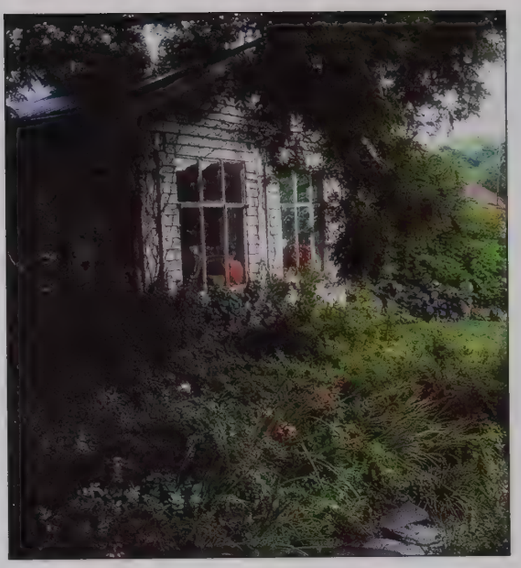
BELOW *Traditional African art, particularly Zimbabwean-type soapstone carving, has been turned into an industry to supply the flea markets mushrooming all over South Africa.*

RIGHT *Masks from many parts of Africa vie with second-hand milk churns and other items for customers' attention at stalls in a Johannesburg market.*



RIGHT *As the tourist industry expands, black people are combining their traditional skills and designs with modern materials of many kinds to meet the demand.*

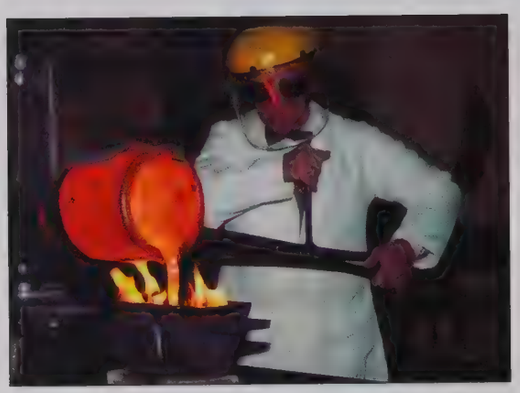
ABOVE *"Port Johannesburg", a miniature reconstruction of Johannesburg, combined with a mini-harbour, is one of the exhibits at the Santarama Miniland. The "tall" building in the background is the Standard Bank.*



LEFT *An English country garden surrounds the Hillford pottery on the Midlands meander route in KwaZulu/Natal.*

LEFT *The Huguenot Memorial in the wine-producing centre of Fransch Hoek ("French Corner"), Western Cape, commemorates the Huguenots who fled from persecution in France in 1736 and settled here.*

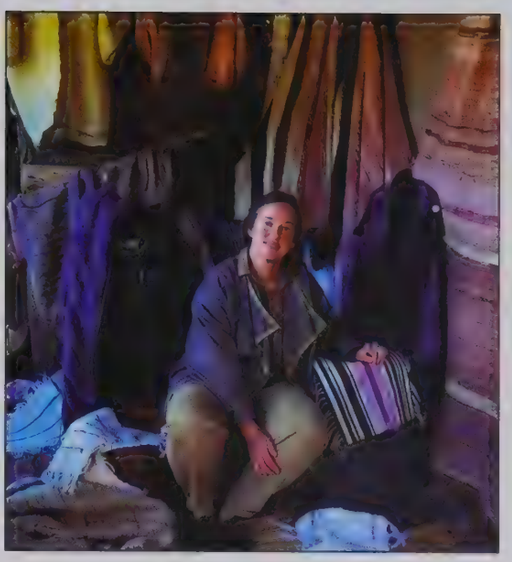
RIGHT *A young South African works on a wood carving of a duck. More and more young people are generating income from art and craft work as jobs become harder to find.*

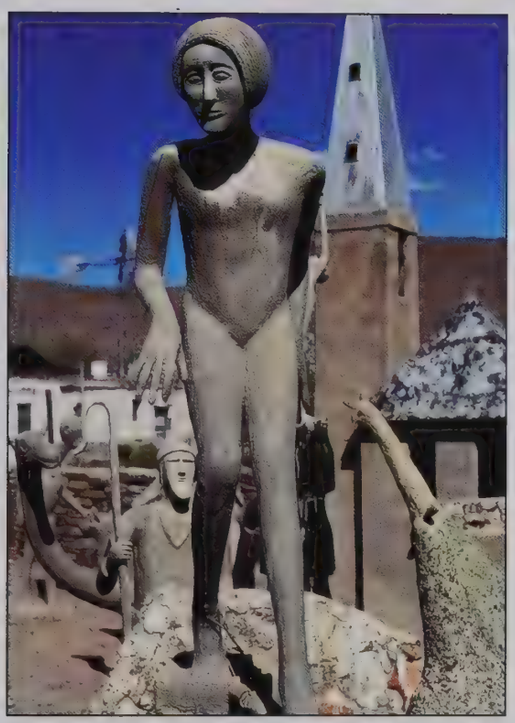


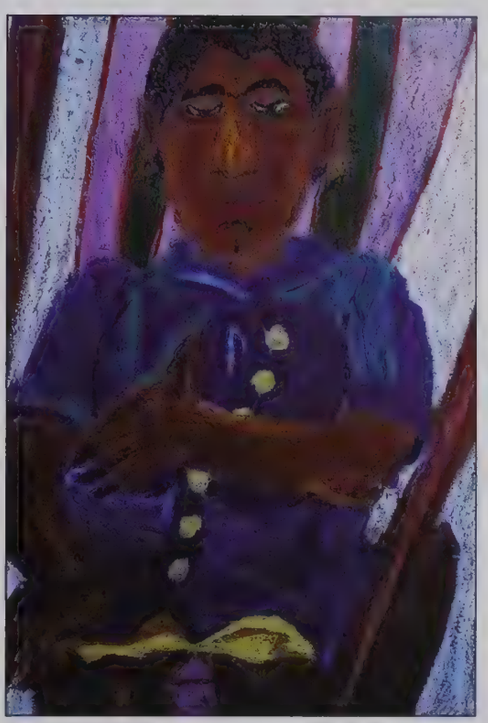
ABOVE *It is not an art but it is valuable – a demonstration in Gold Reef City, Johannesburg, of pouring molten gold into ingot moulds.*

RIGHT *A busy potter churns out pots of different sizes from his wheel. Small businesses like this are helping to ease South Africa's huge unemployment problem.*

LEFT *Students listen to a lecture in the Johannesburg art gallery, which has a fine international collection as well as 17th century Dutch art and contemporary South African art.*





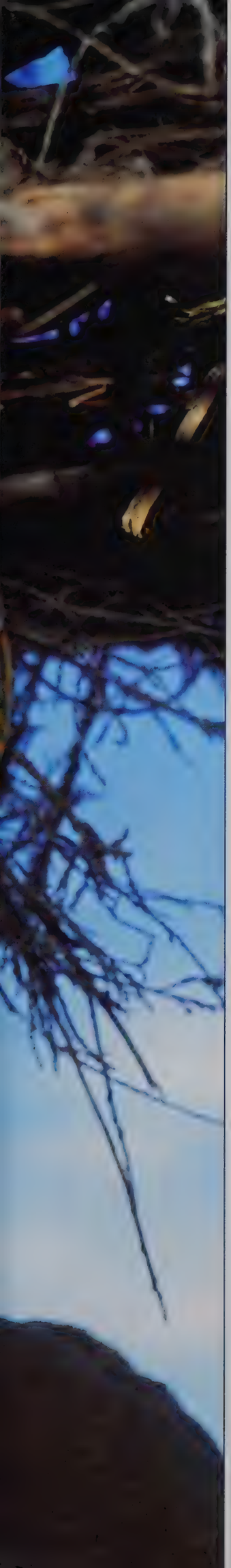


ABOVE *One of the more popular crafts is making clothes from hand-loomed and hand-dyed wool, mohair and cotton. The clothes often fetch high prices.*

LEFT *South Africa has an impressive number of emergent black artists. This painting was one of many in a Johannesburg exhibition of work by black art students.*

ABOVE *The Owl House, a Karoo cottage in the Eastern Cape village of Nieu-Bethesda, is filled with hundreds of fanciful and fascinating cement figures fashioned by the late Helen Martins over many years.*

LEFT *An artist puts the finishing touches to a typically African scene of thorn trees and distant mountains which he captured in paint near Warmbaths in the Northern province.*



8

People & Cultures

SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS A GREAT STEW OF PEOPLES of different races, cultures, languages, religions and skills for centuries before Afrikaner nationalists imposed apartheid in an attempt to separate its ingredients. Arabs were trading down Africa's east coast, probably as far south as the Tropic of Capricorn, before the birth of Christ, and Indian and Chinese voyagers visited southern Africa long before the first Europeans sailed round it. All left their influence and some of their blood among the black peoples.

They came for ivory and for the gold of the Monomatapa kingdom that covered most of present-day Zimbabwe and produced an estimated 25 million ounces of gold in the 12 centuries from about 650 AD. Further south, migrating blacks intermingled with the Khoi and San races, who spoke with the distinctive click sounds that are now a feature of the Zulu and Xhosa languages. Portuguese navigators rounded the Cape in

FACING *Who knows what blood runs in the veins of this elderly woman carrying firewood to her home in the Western Cape? Certainly African and European blood, and possibly something of the East.*

the 15th century and for more than a century Portuguese survivors of shipwrecks added genes to the mix.

After the Dutch settled in the Cape in 1652 it became the major way station for trading ships sailing between Europe and India, with people of many nations pausing or staying there. Among their descendants are the many people in Cape Town today who have the unusual combination of blue eyes, blond hair and brown skin. Slaves and refugees from Indonesia and Malaya intermarried with other races, and their blood runs in the veins of Afrikaners.

French Huguenots came and settled, followed by immigrants from England and Germany. One Englishman, John Dunn, took a flock of Zulu wives in the 19th century and fathered an entire sub-tribe. Diamonds and gold lured Scots, Irish, Americans, Australians and many more. Lithuanians and Estonians fled from Hitler. Czechoslovakian settlers brought with them their beads, giving the Ndebele people new ideas for

LEFT *The bonnet worn by this Northern Cape woman reflects her Dutch or Afrikaans ancestry. The language of the Coloureds, people of mixed blood, is Afrikaans.*

ABOVE *This general dealer's store in Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga, is filled with memorabilia of the gold rush days in the late 19th century, next to modern products.*

FACING (LEFT) *A Shangaan woman in the Northern province plucks emperor moth caterpillars from a mopane tree to be dried and then fried or powdered into stew.*

RIGHT *Anything goes on Johannesburg's sidewalks, including a lunchtime snack of dried mopane worms washed down with Coke.*

FACING *The blue and white cloak worn by this woman shows that she is a member of one of South Africa's numerous Christian sects. She is in a Johannesburg shop that sells "muti", traditional medicines.*

ABOVE *The people of the Richtersveld, largely of Khoi descent, eke out a living from their small herds of goats and by making handicrafts such as scarves.*

decoration. Swedes came to fight alongside the Afrikaners and their missionaries taught the Zulus how to make tapestries and ceramics. French missionaries left French inflexions in the Basotho language.

Today mosques, churches, synagogues and Hindu temples within sight of each other testify to the mixture. In city streets people wear many styles of dress – saris, smart suits, the massive bead and brass anklets and neck rings of the Ndebele, the wide flat headdresses of the Zulu women, the colourful Basotho blankets. They talk in any one of a dozen languages, or a medley of languages, with many people able to switch easily from one language to another.

Although South Africans generally define themselves as white or black, English or Afrikaner, Zulu or Sotho or some other black group, Catholic or Protestant or Hindu or ancestor worshipper, and remain culturally distinct, the social divisions are becoming increasingly blurred. At work and play they are, in the end, all South Africans.

LEFT *Elim is a Moravian mission station founded in 1824 in the Western Cape. Only church members may live here and life is so leisurely ducks have right of way. The village is a national monument.*

LEFT *Children of the Topnaar clan of the Khoi people, who live in the Northern Cape's Namaqualand, relax between lessons.*

RIGHT *On the outskirts of Johannesburg, children of migrants from rural areas play the centuries-old game of rolling the hoop, using old bicycle wheels.*

RIGHT *At The Strand on False Bay a fisherman proudly holds up part of his day's catch. Fishing is a traditional source of income among the Coloured people.*

BELOW (LEFT) *Visitors examine some of the goods on sale in the street outside Johannesburg's Market Theatre, a converted wholesale vegetable market.*

BELOW (RIGHT) *Cape Town people spend many months and a lot of money preparing their finery for the "Coon Carnival" held annually on 2 January, the Cape New Year.*

RIGHT *This Zulu* ***sangoma*** *(or medicine doctor) in KwaZulu/Natal is distinguished by her dress and bead-covered staff. Medical science is now paying more attention to traditional African remedies.*

BELOW *The array of rices and spices in an Indian grocery shop in Durban is a feast of colours and flavours.*

RIGHT *Washday beside a waterhole in Namaqualand is a social occasion when the women gather to gossip and the children play games.*

LEFT *Zulu dancing, among the liveliest in Africa and full of colour, is a leading attraction at the Heia safari ranch.*

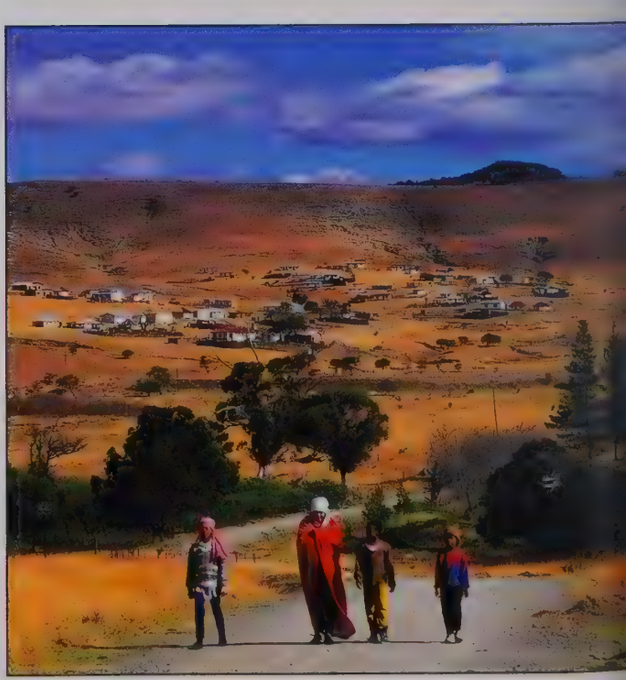
ABOVE *Conservationists encourage people to grow trees to offset the destruction of forests for firewood. This boy is planting a tree at a Drakensberg school.*

LEFT *The pipe band of the Pretoria Boys High School performs at a sports gathering at Benoni on the Witwatersrand. Inter-school competition in sports and music is keen.*

RIGHT *The Western Cape's resorts and beaches are drawing more tourists every year. These visitors are at Keurbooms on the Garden Route.*

BELOW *Firewood is scarce in the dry Northern Cape. This Topnaar woman probably had to walk miles to collect her load.*

BELOW *The Xhosa people of the Eastern Cape inhabit some of South Africa's coolest countryside, hence the blanket and jerseys.*



BELOW *South Africa's hope for the future is that children of all races will reject the prejudices of the past. Such sights are commonplace today.*

RIGHT *Three generations of a Topnaar family – grandmother, daughter and granddaughter – sit on the doorstep of their Richtersveld home. Like other Khoi people, the Topnaar have adopted the Afrikaans language, dress and many customs.*

RIGHT *At a roadside in the middle of nowhere in KwaZulu/Natal an enterprising Zulu woman has built a stall offering a potpourri of wares.*

ABOVE *With the dismantling of apartheid, people of all races started to enjoy each other's company as at this light-hearted evening barbecue.*

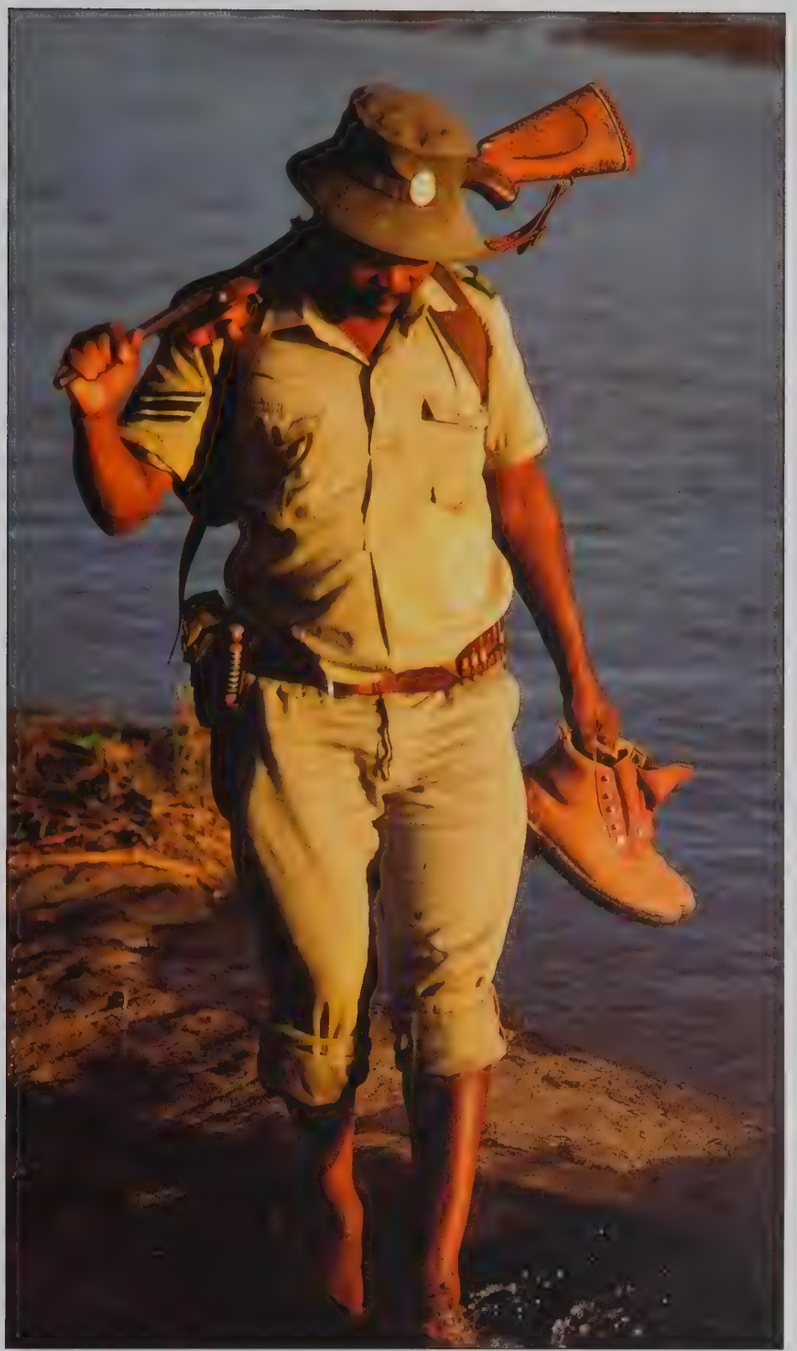
ABOVE *Education is the black population's biggest single need. These students are among the few lucky enough to have reached university level.*

RIGHT *A lunchtime chess game in Johannesburg's Joubert Park, like the new South Africa, has no race barriers.*

RIGHT *The pop group Amapondo perform at one of the venues along the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in Cape Town.*

BELOW *Fishing brings many visitors to the Lake St Lucia complex of game reserves in northern KwaZulu/Natal, as do its warm climate and golden sunsets.*

RIGHT *A game ranger cools his feet in the river after taking a party of visitors on a long day's hiking in the Umfolozi reserve in KwaZulu/Natal.*



LEFT *The "Puppets Against Aids" project, here in action in the streets of Alexandra near Johannesburg, is part of a nationwide education programme to combat the disease.*

ABOVE *There is no better way to see the full spread and beauty of the early morning landscape than from the basket of a balloon, a fast-growing sport.*

LEFT *A popular pastime is to savour the country's riverine beauty from a canoe. The lily-covered water here is the Riviersonderend ("River Without End") in the Western Cape.*

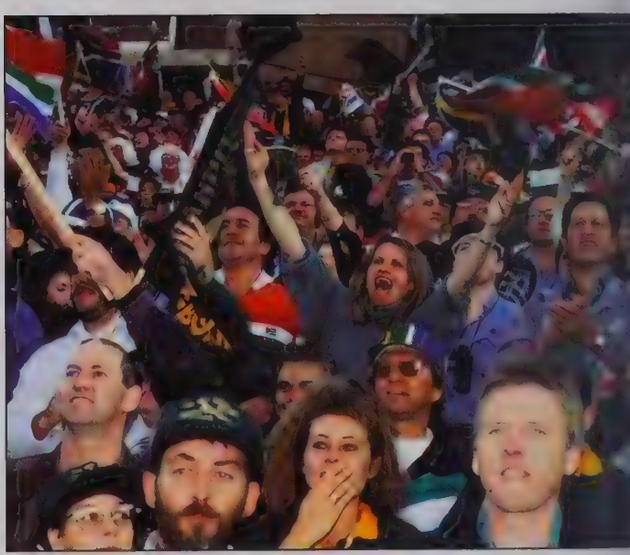
LEFT *For the more daring there are challenging rock climbs throughout the country. This cliff is at Waterval Boven ("Upper Waterfall") on the Escarpment in Mpumalanga.*

BELOW (LEFT) *South Africa has earned high ranking for its cricket prowess since it was re-admitted into international competition. This is a Castle Currie Cup match.*

BELOW *Trout fishing, mostly for rainbow trout and occasionally for brown trout, is one of the most popular ways for city dwellers to relax. Fishing rights are highly sought after and costly.*

LEFT *A surfer skilfully "shoots a tube" off a beach in KwaZulu/Natal, which hosts the Gunston 500 and several other contests that draw international stars.*

BELOW *Rugby spectators erupt with joy as a touchdown is scored. Rugby is the most popular sport among the white community.*



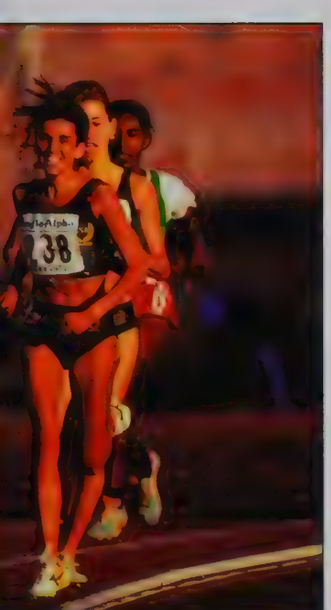
ABOVE *South Africa and India compete at polo, a game that has been played for many years in South Africa but frustrated by the lack of competition during the time of its sporting isolation.*

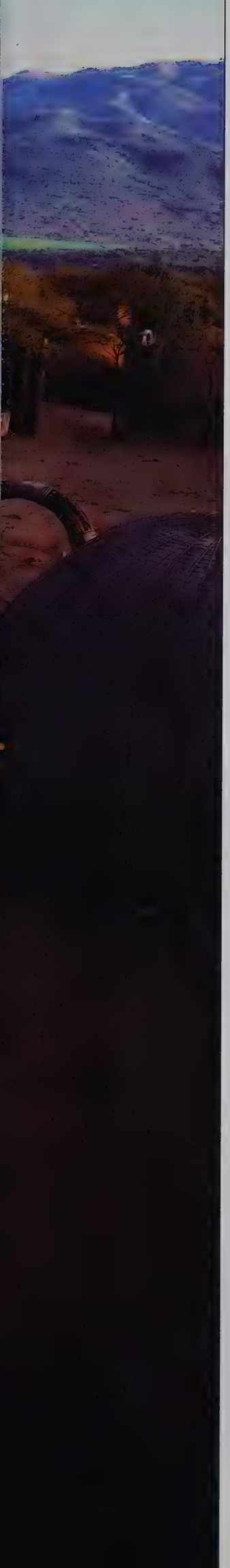
LEFT *The Newlands rugby stadium in Cape Town is one of the top four in the country, and the one where the game is most likely to be played in wet, muddy conditions.*

LEFT *Bloubergstrand ("Blue Mountain Beach") on the northern end of Table Bay is a favourite windsurfing venue, the wind sweeping off thousands of kilometres of open Atlantic.*

RIGHT *Catamaran teams prepare their craft for a competition at The Strand, False Bay.*

BELOW *South Africa's world class long-distance runner, Elana Meyer, leads a race in Durban wearing her trademark smile.*





9

ARCHITECTURE

IN ITS BROADEST SENSE, architecture in South Africa dates back to centuries before external influences arrived with the colonizers and settlers from Europe and the East. Simple mud, grass or reed homes have been the style among African peoples for thousands of years, but as recently as 1990 evidence was found of an early society with considerably more advanced building techniques.

At Thulamela in the far north of the Kruger National Park archaeologists have uncovered and painstakingly reconstructed the large, thick, well-built, dry-stone walls of a sizeable fortress settlement that flourished here between the 14th and 17th centuries. Smelting equipment and sophisticated gold, copper and iron artefacts indicate that it was an outpost of the large Monomotapa kingdom established by the Rozwi people, the builders of Great Zimbabwe.

When the Dutch occupied the Cape in 1652 they built a wood and earthen fort but later replaced it with the Cape Town Castle, the country's oldest building, completed in 1679. It is in the style typical of the times, a five-pointed star with bastions at the corners. Thereafter the first truly local architecture evolved – the Cape Dutch

FACING *A Zulu hut made of tightly woven grass, with a low doorway and a hard-beaten earthen floor, is surprisingly cosy but these traditional homes are giving way to square or round mud-walled thatched houses and brick buildings.*

style, characterized by large, cool homes of simple layout with stone-flagged floors, tall wooden shuttered windows, steep-pitched thatched roofs and gables at the front and ends. The gables were often decorated with the work of leading artists.

When Britain annexed the Cape after the Napoleonic wars it introduced the Regency and Georgian influences still evident among Cape Town's mélange of buildings. As the hinterland was opened up and settlement expanded, especially following the discovery of diamonds and gold, Victorian design was carried over most of the country and is preserved in homes, government buildings and business premises, some extremely elegant, many decorated with the cast-iron features so popular in Victorian England.

Several outstanding architects have left lasting imprints in the form of large imposing buildings. The most prolific was Sir Herbert Baker whose major work, the graceful, Edwardian-influenced Union Buildings in Pretoria, was completed in 1913.

ABOVE *In the Cedarberg area of the Northern Cape many people occupy small thatched houses similar to those of early Dutch settlers, with a big oven and chimney at one end.*

BELOW *The nomads of Khoi descent in the Northern Cape desert travel with all their possessions on donkey carts and live in huts of reed mats drawn over light wooden frames.*

Since his time the country's architectural profession has expanded greatly and today has many members of international renown.

The destruction in the apartheid years of suburbs occupied by Coloureds (people of mixed blood), such as Cape Town's District Six, Johannesburg's Sophiatown and Pretoria's Lady Selborne, and their resettlement elsewhere gave birth to architectural monstrosities – huge, regimented, soulless "townships" of little box houses like those in Johannesburg's Soweto and in Mdantsane in the Eastern Cape. Upgrading or replacing them is an expensive process, but the far greater challenge to architects and builders is to create decent housing to cater for the nationwide flood of people into the cities.

There is no clear-cut South African architectural style. It is a highly catholic blend of African influences and foreign trends. Its results are equally catholic, some dull or dubious but others excellent by any standards.

ABOVE (TOP) *Tourist chalets reflecting the Cape Dutch style have been built in the Karoo National Park, Western Cape.*

ABOVE *A Ndebele woman spreads a mud and cowdung plaster on the path to her home near Pretoria.*

RIGHT *A Zulu guide explains the plan of a model traditional village to tourists at Shakaland near Eshowe in KwaZulu/Natal.*

RIGHT *This is a typical stone-built Karoo farmhouse, with its windpump, water reservoir and screened stoop. The stoop's curved corrugated-iron roof indicates that the house is over a century old.*

ABOVE *Log cabins, like this one at Cape Vidal in KwaZulu/Natal, are fairly new to South Africa but, with the expansion of the timber industry and effective treatment against termites, more are now being built.*

LEFT *Built in the Cape Peninsula's Constantia Valley, Klein Constantia is the homestead of a well-known vineyard and one of the oldest and most beautiful Cape Dutch houses.*

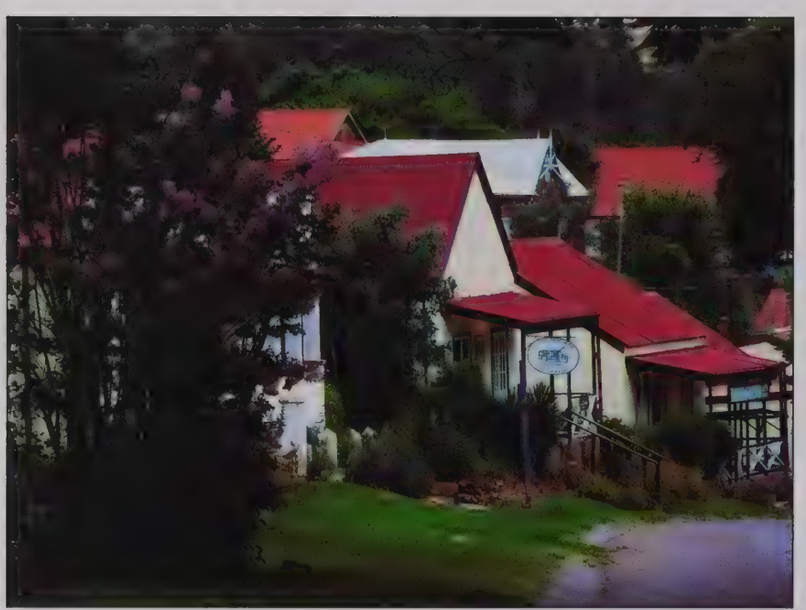
ABOVE *This mill, with its loft, is at Elim mission in the Western Cape. The old flatbed wagon in the foreground is now a rarity, but such wagons were used on farms as recently as the 1950s.*

RIGHT *The traditional round thatched huts of the Xhosa people in the Eastern Cape are slowly giving way to modern characterless square homes with corrugated-iron roofs.*

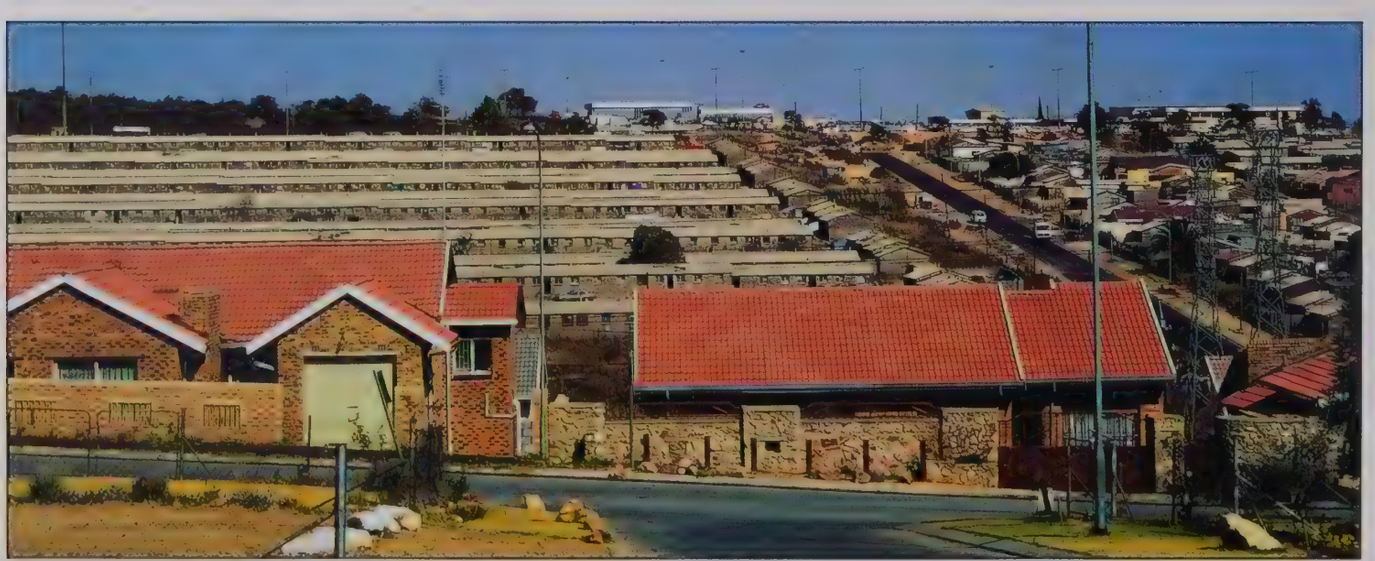
ABOVE *Mostert's Mill in Cape Town's Mowbray suburb, a well-known landmark to thousands of people driving to and from work along Rhodes Drive, was built in 1795 and restored in 1936.*

LEFT *Laundry makes a splash of colour against the clean whitewashed homes in Arniston, a fishing village near Cape Agulhas.*

RIGHT *The old print house and neighbouring buildings in Pilgrim's Rest date from the late 19th century gold rush. On the inside, in a style borrowed from British India, the walls and corrugated-iron roofs are lined with wood.*



BELOW *Behind the expensive brick homes in Soweto's "Beverly Hills" lies the soulless monotony of mass housing and, in the background, hostel blocks built for single men – a legacy of apartheid.*

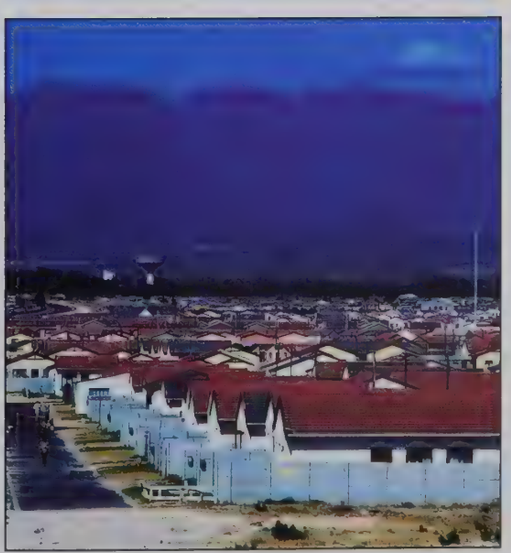


LEFT *Cities are fast being ringed by "informal settlements", a euphemism for vast slums of shacks with few services and crowded with rural migrants.*

ABOVE *The polyglot mass of apartment blocks in Hillbrow, on the left, overlooks Johannesburg's high-rise central business district.*

ABOVE *This mass building project, one of many in South Africa's urban areas, is designed to provide jobs as well as housing.*

RIGHT *Some building developments, though monotonous, provide homes of a fairly good standard, such as this one on Mitchell's Plain in the Western Cape.*



ABOVE *Decent housing and services will greatly enhance this little girl's prospects in life. With high unemployment levels, the challenge is to provide homes of reasonable quality at a cost people can afford.*

ABOVE *Gold Reef City, near Johannesburg, recaptures the British colonial building styles common in mining towns at the turn of the century.*

ABOVE (RIGHT) *San Lameer near Durban provides luxurious water-side homes for the wealthy to enjoy their boating and other pleasures.*

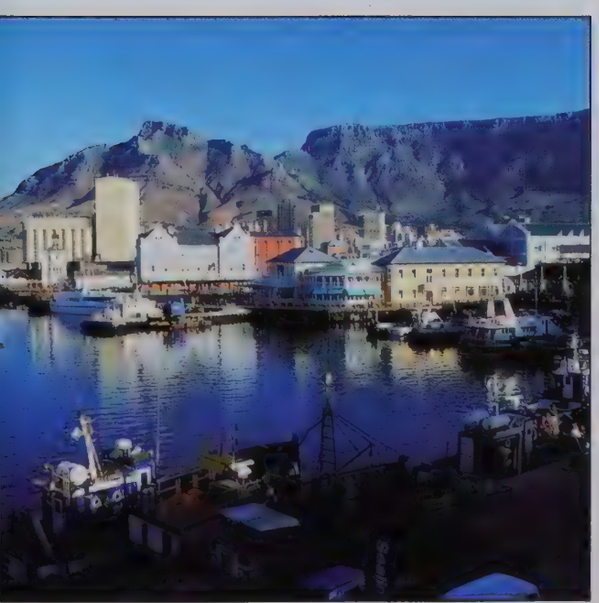
ABOVE *The intricate "brookie lace" trellis work and down-curved roof over the stoop of a house in Somerset East, Eastern Cape, were popular architectural features in the 19th century.*

LEFT *The controversial Ponte apartment block, in the middle, dominates Johannesburg's crowded skyline. On the far left is the huge Carlton Centre.*

RIGHT *This Cape Dutch house is one of 32 historic buildings in the 200-year-old town of Tulbagh, Western Cape, which were fully restored after being destroyed in an earth-quake in 1969.*

BELOW *The glass walls of the Forest Lodge in the Phinda resource centre, KwaZulu/Natal, give visitors an extraordinary sense of being among the fauna and flora of the game reserve.*

LEFT *In a classic old Victorian home in Prince Alfred Hamlet, meticulously pointed brick offsets the intricate trelliswork.*



LEFT *Along Cape Town's Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, in the lap of Table Mountain, are some fine old buildings, all recently refurbished.*

RIGHT *Bright colours redeem the otherwise plain wooden changing rooms at St James beach on False Bay, Cape Town.*

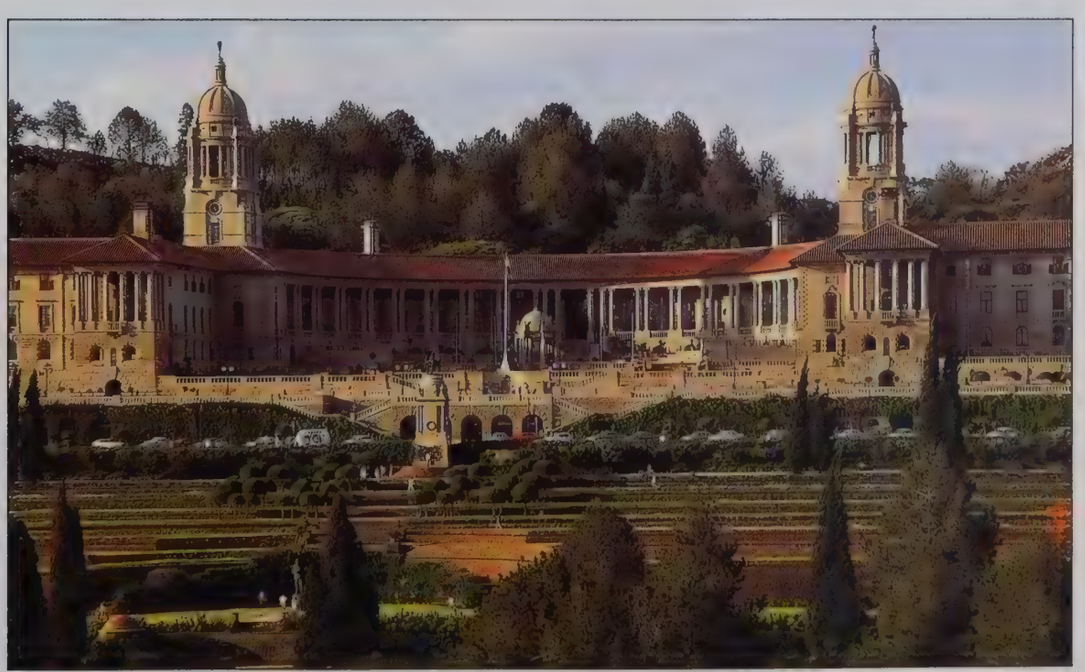
ABOVE *A major challenge in the new South Africa is to provide all homes with adequate electricity, water and sewage services.*

LEFT *The Dutch Reformed Church in George, Western Cape, was built in the 1830s in the classic cross shape, with thick earthen walls. The rococo gable and round tower are unusual features.*

LEFT *Overlooked by the imposing Simonsberg, the Dutch Reformed Church mission station at Pniel ("the face of God"), east of Stellenbosch, was built in 1834. The church has a simple gabled front and buttressed corners.*

ABOVE *The Cape Dutch influence is evident in the elegant gables of this 1913 building on the university campus in Stellenbosch. Founded in 1679, Stellenbosch is the second oldest town in South Africa.*

RIGHT *Designed by William Butterfield, a leading British architect, the Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity at Belvidere, Knysna, was completed in 1855.*



LEFT *Pretoria's Union Buildings, designed by Sir Herbert Baker and named to commemorate the birth of the Union of South Africa, are the headquarters of government and house the offices of President Mandela.*

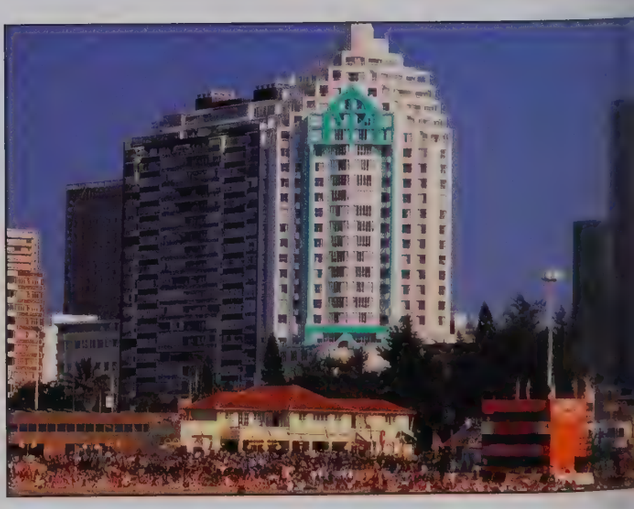
RIGHT *Most modern architecture in Johannesburg emulates foreign trends and uses high-tech materials, as in this "windowless" office block in the city centre.*

RIGHT *The centrepiece of Pietermaritzburg's many Victorian buildings is its city hall, burned down in 1898 and rebuilt three years later. It is said to be the biggest all-brick building in the Southern Hemisphere.*

ABOVE *The Anglo American Corporation's high-rise glass structure, in Diagonal Street, Johannesburg, is suggestive of a cut diamond.*

BELOW *An eclectic mishmash of buildings crowds the Durban beachfront, most of them designed for the tourist trade which, after the harbour, is the city's major source of revenue.*

RIGHT *The Palace of the Lost City hotel and casino in the North West province is a fantasy conceived by American and South African architects which incorporates aspects of several cultures.*



ABOVE *The smooth, glassy lines of one of the country's largest hotels soar from the sidewalks of downtown Johannesburg. The city now abounds with buildings of this type.*

LEFT *In Pietersburg, capital of the Northern province and service centre for six million people, the new library building was designed to include an art gallery exhibiting South African works.*

LEFT *This small mosque, with its two-tiered muezzin tower, and a plain gable reminiscent of the Cape Dutch style, is in the delightful Bo-Kaap ("Above Cape") Malay quarter of Cape Town, an area now conserved as a national monument.*

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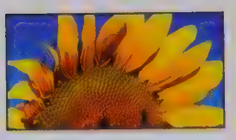

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WILFRED NUSSEY is a South African who retired after 38 years as a newspaper reporter, foreign correspondent and editor to write books and articles on wildlife and environmental affairs. As a specialist on Africa he has covered most of the continent's countries, and in his spare time he visits many of its game reserves. He has written comprehensive books on the Kruger National Park and the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park and contributed chapters to several other books on South Africa. Today he lives with his wife on a private nature reserve in the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa's Mpumalanga province.

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